

too late to destine any of the Hon'ble Company's ships for this service that were to be dispatched home from hence & as the Egmont Capt. Mears whom we had appointed for the Madrass ship could carry but a very inconsiderable part of the intended reinforcements, We were under the necessity of engaging a great deal of Tonnage among the Private Shipping, and the artillery stores had been for some time embarked when advices from the Coast determined the Gentlemen of the Select Committee to Change their resolution & send no more than a Company of Grenadiers & fifty of the train under the Command of Col: Peache. The Egmont accommodating these the private Tonnage became unnecessary and was discharged. The Owners however laid claim to the full freight but as it did not appear that the disappointment could prevent their prosecuting the voyages they at first designed excepting in the Case of a vessel called the four friends who was unavoidably detained much longer than any of the others & thereby deprived of the opportunity of a second trip to the Coast, perhaps in strict justice they were not entitled to any consideration however as an encouragement to Owners, on future occasions of the Like nature we judged it best policy to allow them half of the sum agreed for, and to the owners of the four friends, three fourths, whom we have already mentioned to be particularly Circumstanced. To this they

have all acquiesced the Owners of the Thetis excepted—the Gentleman acting for Capt. Clough Consn. 25th Janry. not thinking himself authorised to pass a receipt in full without particular directions from his constituent who had sailed for Bombay.

5. The whole amount of the bills which the Military paymaster general is directed to pay on this acct. Consn. 1st Febr'y. amounts to Current Rups. 26969-11.

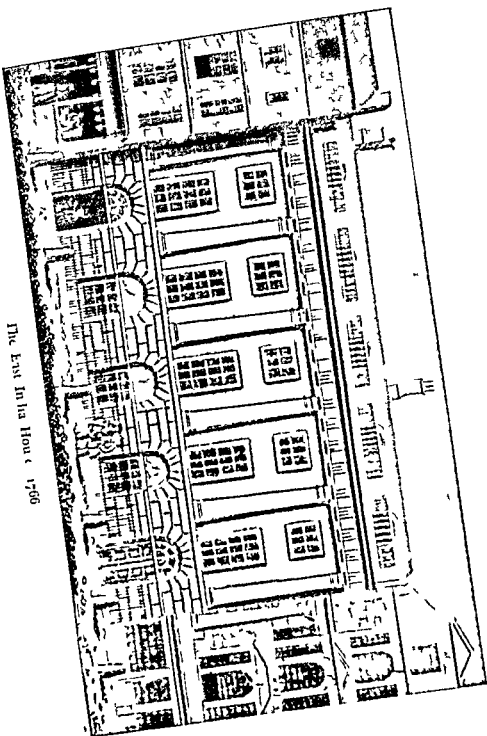
6. Our last letter represented to you a scene of villany that had come to our knowledge relating to the ship Tetuenbien that was intended by the king of Pegue as a present to Lord Clive or the Governor of Bengal for the Time being, Our proceedings on the occasion now wait upon you by this ship & we beg leave to refer to them for further particulars. The sum awarded by the arbitrators to be due to Messrs. Waple & Banks has been paid, After deducting the amount of Mr Bank's bond to the Company for Rs 39422-14 (which a sense of justice had induced the Board to make good to Mr Dolbin) as also of a bill which was drawn in favor of Mr Page Kebb & endorsed over to the Company and which Mr Banks at first refused to pay but agreed to it afterwards on receiving advice from Pegue amounting to Current Rupees 6340.

7. The Ship in Question having been long in the Sheriff's

# INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

GENERAL EDITOR : S. N. SEN





The East India House 1766

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE

AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY PAPERS  
RELATING THERETO

(PUBLIC SERIES)

VOL. V : 1767-1769

EDITED BY

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## GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

AN archives office is not only expected to preserve official documents for official use but also to make them available to interested scholars. The research students may and do claim access under reasonable conditions to all non-confidential and non-current records of the state and in every civilised country this privilege is readily conceded. Archivists of the orthodox school do not always admit that publication of records is one of their legitimate functions but in actual practice even the most conservative of them cannot help taking a keen interest in the subject matter of the manuscripts in their custody. To annotate and publish an interesting document or a series of records is going only one step further. In India the officers in charge of government records have mostly been professional historians and they have interested themselves not only in the compilation of reference media but also in the preparation of historical monographs and publication of records. The practice is not without its advantages. It helps to bring the original sources to the desk of the investigators working in the remotest part of the country and to save the fragile papers from the natural consequences of frequent handling. When the Indian Historical Records Commission suggested to the Government of India that the early correspondence between the Directors of the East India Company and their servants at Fort William should be published in extenso the recommendation was promptly accepted. The editorial work had necessarily to be entrusted to scholars of the Commission's choice for the staff of the National Archives of India (then Imperial Record Department) could not possibly undertake the entire responsibility of implementing the whole scheme. The publication of this important series of correspondence offered one problem which had to be squarely faced. They could be treated either chronologically or subjectwise. The chronological treatment had one disadvantage. The letters issued and the letters received in a particular year often dealt with entirely different subjects and the Directors' views on the questions broached by the President and Council at Fort William cannot be made available in the same volume. But few subjects of real importance were ordinarily disposed of in a single year and of all information about a particular question of policy were to be included in one volume the integrity of the documents could not possibly be maintained. It was therefore

decided to publish the correspondence in their chronological order though it may cause some inconvenience of reference.

The editors have kept in view the special needs of the beginners and they have discussed in details all relevant questions in their introductions. The General editor proposes to review the series in his preface to the first volume.

*National Archives of India,  
New Delhi,  
The 14th December, 1948*

SURENDRANATH SEN.

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# INTRODUCTION





# INTRODUCTION

## LETTERS FROM COURT

THESE letters to and from the Court of Directors cover the years 1767-69. But it is difficult to treat the two series together. The Directors were discussing in March 1767 Lord Clive's abstract of the expenses of the year 1765, sent in March 1766, and the President and Council at Calcutta were replying towards the close of 1769 to the Court's letters written early in November 1768. For this reason each series is best read separately. The letters from the Court reflect the policy and outlook of the Directors in London while the letters to the Court present the views of their servants at Calcutta. As far as possible an attempt has been made to show how the servants of the East India Company in Bengal and the Court of Directors in England influenced each other's policy and action.

The Court of Directors, giving nominal salaries to their servants in India, had the greatest difficulty in creating a healthy tradition for the Company's service. The servants of the E. I. Co.'s service company were interested mainly in their private trade in which they were making fortune very quickly. The Directors would not perhaps have minded much, if their servants' commercial enterprise had not affected their own balance sheet and their position in England. One of the grounds assigned in the House of Commons for an enquiry into the affairs of the East India Company was "the rapacious, oppressive and disobedient conduct of the servants of the East India Company" (4 March 1767 para 4). The Court's remedy consisted in fighting the symptoms instead of attempting a radical cure. They were conscious of "the corruption, licentiousness and total want of public spirit" in the company's service (4 March 1767 para 5). The junior servants, intent on private trade, wanted to be employed in subordinate factories in preference to the headquarters of the Presidency. The Directors were anxious to check this tendency. The servants of the Company were not to be allowed to exploit the special privileges of the Company to further and safeguard their private trade and their commercial transactions were to be limited to articles of export and import under the *farman* of Furrukhsiyar. The Court wanted a copy of the register of *dastaks* "granted from the Presidency and from all the subordinates" (4 March 1767 para 15).

For refusing to qualify himself for a vacant seat in the Mayor's Court, the President and Council suspended Mr. French and this

was approved. The Court, anxious to check this tendency to avoid responsible offices that were not very lucrative, further ordered that he was not to be restored unless he repented (4 March 1767 para 35). The Court felt that the junior servants by their extravagance became indebted to their banians and became their tool. This extravagance was to be checked by a set of sumptuary regulations. But we have every reason to believe that these regulations as given in the general letter of 4 March 1767 (paras 36-44) were not obeyed. We do not find the writers leading such Spartan lives as the Court wanted, though the directions were to the effect that any writer declining to comply with these regulations was to be suspended from the service. The Court of Directors, conscious of the want of public spirit in their service, positively forbade the supply of building material and other articles to the Company by any of their servants. The committee of works was to contract with country merchants in future (16 March 1768 para 185). On another point also the Directors were very insistent. The Company's affairs were not to be the subject of private letters (17 March 1769 para 49).

Lord Clive's plan of remunerating the senior servants of the Company by granting them a monopoly of salt, betelnut and tobacco was turned down. It was ordered that "no Company's servant, free merchant or any European shall in any mode or shape whatever either by agent or themselves directly or indirectly trade in or be concerned in an inland trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco or in any other articles produced and consumed in the country". The Company's servants or European free merchants were not to be concerned in such inland trade or in farming the Khalaris (i.e., places where salt is manufactured). Any disobedience in the case of their own employees was to be punished with dismissal from the Company's service and in the case of the European free merchants with the withdrawal of the Company's protection. The trade of the Company's servants was to be confined to objects of export and import only but in view of the increase of the Company's business, the Court of Directors decided to give to the senior servants  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent commission on the net revenues to be divided into 100 parts or shares—the Governor to have 31 shares, the Commander-in-chief  $7\frac{1}{2}$  shares, the second-in-council  $4\frac{1}{2}$  shares, and so on. These shares were to be in addition to the salary and allowance. Military officers were also to participate in the privilege. The Governor's commission of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  per cent on the *diwani* revenues was to cease and he was to be responsible for the removal of abuses. The commission on the revenues was to commence from 1 September 1767 (20 November 1767 paras 108-119).

It is necessary to note that the Court of Directors supervised the grant of *dastaks* and in their letter of 17 March 1769 pointed the

irregularities committed, revoked all particular indulgences formerly granted and laid it down as a maxim that no *dastak* was to be granted "for any goods or merchandise to or from the inland places to any but the covenanted servants above the rank of writers and such of the writers who have attained the age of 21 years" (para 118).

During the period under review the Court of Directors failed to find a remedy for the greed and extravagance of their servants. The Court declared that they looked on "every innovation in the inland trade as an intrusion on the natural right of the natives". They proclaimed that it was their duty to maintain the barrier between the two interests as much as to defend the provinces from foreign invasions. In their letter dated 11 November 1768 (para 80) the Court of Directors expressing their approval of the deportation of Bolts wrote—"Mr. Bolts has been a very unprofitable and unworthy Servant to the Company, his Conduct has been distinguished by a Tenacious adherence to those pernicious Principles relative to the Rights to the Inland Trade, in which he was conspicuously oppressive". If Mr. Bolts suffered, it was because he was conspicuous, for many others, equally oppressive, escaped punishment because they had the merit of not being conspicuous. In spite of their injunctions and peremptory orders against receiving presents and carrying on exclusive trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco, the Directors had strong reasons to suspect that there was largescale evasion of this prohibition. In the Instructions to the Commissioners dated 15 September 1769, the Directors wrote, "It excites our utmost indignation to find that great fortunes have been acquired by persons in our service in trades carried on in direct opposition to our express injunctions and commands." The Commissioners were asked to discover the principal actors and abettors in these acts of disobedience, to dismiss them and to take legal means of redress (para 27).

The Directors were keenly interested in two things—investment and land revenue. But they insisted that the distinction between commerce and land revenue should be preserved and expressed strong disapproval of the proposal of holding the *pooniah* at Fort William as it would look like removing the capital from Murshidabad to Calcutta. These letters reveal the anxiety of these merchant princes to increase their investment and so far as the *diwani* was concerned they were naturally more interested in revenue than in the welfare of their subjects. Prospects of the increase of investment were always welcome and the President and Council at Calcutta were fully aware of their employers' sentiments in this respect. Fine piecegoods and raw silk were considered the best commodities for the European market. The

Investment

Directors thought that the French and the Dutch ships carried more valuable cargoes from Bengal than their own and wrote that they had reasons to believe that some of the Company's servants and free merchants residing under the English Company's licence provided these rival companies with their cargoes, thus prejudicing the interests of their masters. The Court directed that dismissal from service in the case of the Company's servants and withdrawal of protection in the case of free merchants should be the punishment for these malpractices. In letter after letter the Court referred to this subject. The Company was eager to receive as large a proportion of the Bengal revenues as possible through investment. They wanted the surplus revenue to be sent to England in the shape of commodities. This surplus was to be as large as possible so that the investment might be proportionately profitable. Any rival company carrying on a thriving trade was an eyesore. But the condition of the French Company was not really so thriving as the Court of Directors in their jealousy suspected.

The East India Company sold in Bengal broad cloth, copper, iron, lead and a few other commodities from Europe and purchased cotton and silk piece goods, raw silk, saltpetre and other articles for the returning ships. It is only fair to note that the Directors were in favour of a much better treatment of weavers and silk winders than their servants in India would advocate. Many of the Company's servants would not hesitate to use force to make the weavers enter business contract with the company. The Directors' comment deserves quotation. 'The Gentlemen at Dacca say the Foreigners give 20 and 30 per cent more than we do but the Fact that comes the strongest to the point is The Sale of the Furratt and Damaged Goods which sold at Public Auction from 10 to 100 per cent advance, a clear Proof of the injustice done to the Weavers, at once Accounts for the reluctance to work for the Company, and violence being added to that, we are no longer to seek for the reasons why so many of them quit their looms.' The servants of the Company at Dacca proposed that they should co operate with the French and the Dutch in providing for investment. In the absence of competition they would jointly be able to monopolise the whole manufacture of the country and the weavers would be entirely at their mercy. The Directors comment on this proposal shows that in this matter at least their sense of what would serve their interest was somewhat different. They wrote, 'Such a measure would be destructive of all Manufactures of the Country, and every exertion of Power, every measure that checks the Freedom of Commerce, increases the evil you complain of. Due Encouragement and Protection to the weavers will be the only means of promoting the Manufactures.' Not only did the Directors turn down the proposal of establishing a monopoly, they

were also of the opinion that native *gomastahs* should be recalled and the old practice of providing for investment by contracts with the merchants should be revived. This was, however, a recommendation, not an order. They wrote, "Merchant and Manufacturer is a natural union, but the Manufacturer dreads the hand of power which always handles him too roughly" (11 November 1768 paras 38-42).

But the general letter of 16 March 1769 (paras 30-35) shows that the Court looked further ahead, unlike their servants who were concerned only with the immediate increase of investment. Instead of fostering the growth of silk fabrics, the Court wanted the manufacture of raw silk to be encouraged. They told their servants in India that they should "endeavour to induce the Manufacturers of Wrought silk to quit that Branch and take to the winding of Raw Silk". Cultivation of mulberry plant was to be encouraged by a deduction from rent as a bounty. The purchase of silk was to be made at an enhanced price so that other rivals would not be able to compete. The silk-winders were to be compelled to work in the Company's factories "under severe penalties by the Authority of the Government". This policy of encouragement and compulsion so clearly stated was highly prejudicial to Indian manufacturers. It is, however, relevant to note that the statement of Bolts (*Considerations*, p. 195) that the weavers of raw silk cut off their thumbs in order to escape being forced to wind silk for the English Company is made with reference to the earlier period of Lord Clive's administration. The Directors also referred to the "oppressed state the weavers have been in for some years, which has occasioned many of them to fling up their looms" (11 November 1768 para 38). The Directors added, "There cannot be a stronger picture of oppression than the letters have laid open to us." (*Ibid*). The declared policy of the Court was to procure the greatest quantity of raw silk for the factories of Great Britain by moderate bounties. They also wanted a settlement at Balambangan "where great quantities of opium will be vended" (Instructions to Commissioners, paras 23-24).

The Company, according to Clive's arrangement had practically nothing to do in the matter of *diwani* revenue collection except managing and adjusting the revenues through a Land Revenue Resident at the Durbar. The Court of Directors talked of placing the collection of revenues on a "just and honourable footing" and flattered themselves that "with care and industry great improvements may be made in the Dewani collections". The increase of the revenue of Calcutta lands as also of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong combined with the increase of population in those areas which were directly under the East India Company

made the Directors aspire to remove the abuses in the *diwani* districts and "reduce the number of idle sycophants placed between the tenants and public treasury" The Directors' intention was not to enhance the rents of the tenants, nor to take from the profits of the zamindars, but to remove the abuses due to the numerous tribes of 'fougedars, Aumils, Sikdars' Their plan of reformation of *diwani* collection was "to establish a committee of some of our ablest servants for the management of the Dewani revenues at Murshidabad for the Bengal province and at Patna for that of Bihar". They were to be the controllers of *diwani* revenues under the President and Council and they were to have other junior covenanted servants as assistants to be sent to different parts of the country for the correction of abuses, to collect reliable information and on the basis of data supplied to reduce the expenses of collection The Court of Directors recommended that their servants were to proceed with this reformation "with a moderate, steady and persevering Spirit of Enquiry", but all business was to be carried on through the *Najib Dewan* under his seal and signature (30 June 1769 paras 13-18) This was certainly a much less ambitious scheme than the supervisor experiment started by Verelst in August 1769

The Court's dissatisfaction with the existing system was further expressed in the instructions issued to their Commissioners—Vinsittart, Scrafton and Forde, who were appointed in September 1769 but were drowned on their way to India The Court wrote, "Instead of only one person at the Durbar there should be a Resident with a Council or proper assistants at the chief place of collection who should have power to conduct and regulate the mode and charges of collection and reform all abuses therein and to whom the complaints of inhabitants at all times find full access" (para 29) But in the meantime Governor Verelst had taken advantage of the wording of the Court's letter of 11 November 1768 in which they had expressed their approval of the appointment of Europeans in the ceded lands and construed this as an implied permission to launch his experiment Of course the Directors gave their approval later to Verelst's plan which was far too ambitious to be successful in the existing circumstances Bungling and fumbling attempts at land revenue reform commenced during this period and the Directors were more responsible for the mistakes of British Indian land revenue policy than their servants in India The Court treated Bengal's land revenue as a source of investment and their anxiety for surplus revenue largely influenced the land revenue experiments, even after the open assumption of the *diwani*

The Directors felt that they had good reasons for their anxiety There was an impression in England that the newly acquired territory

of the East India Company was a veritable Eldorado. Clive had exaggerated the importance of his acquisition and the speed

with which servants of the East India Company were acquiring fortunes had lent colour to that impression. The Court of Proprietors in 1766 had raised their dividend from 6 to 10 per cent and on 6 May 1767 they raised it to 12½ per cent in spite of the opposition of the Directors. All this drew public attention and Parliament attempted during this period to regulate the relation between the state and the newly-acquired territory of the East India Company. Without opening the question of sovereignty, Parliament decided that the Company's dividend should not exceed 10 per cent and that the Company should pay annually £400,000 to the British exchequer for two years certain. Parliament lowered the duties and allowed a draw back upon the exportation of tea to Ireland and the British colonies in America (20 November 1767 paras 46 and 47). To meet all these additional commitments, the Directors were anxious that there should be an increase of remittances through every possible channel in India. Surplus land revenue and profits from investment were to meet these new charges. Before this term expired, the Court, anxious to avoid the re-opening of the question of sovereignty, entered into a new agreement to pay to the public funds £400,000 per annum for five years more and to export annually on an average to their settlements "£380,837 in goods and merchandise of the growth, produce or manufacture of Great Britain exclusive of military and naval stores" (30 June 1769 para 58). The assumption that increased remittances would be available for meeting these large annual commitments proved fallacious and when the crash came some years later, parliamentary intervention followed as a matter of course.

The Court of Directors, anxious for increase of remittance, could not possibly sanction an ambitious or adventurous foreign policy

which was bound to prove costly. Content with what had been acquired, the Court had no further object than to maintain the tranquillity

of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Non-intervention was their policy. The directors were anxious to recall the brigade at Allahabad and were strongly opposed to the marching of British troops to restore Shah Alam to Delhi. But the Directors were not very successful, at any stage, in keeping their servants pacifically inclined. In the instructions given to the deputies sent by the President and Select Committee to negotiate with Shujaud-Daula of Oudh there was an article to which exception was taken by the Directors. It referred to the usurpations of the Hindu Pat Raja. Conscious of their inability to restrain their servants in India, the Directors used the strongest language—"Is it our business to enquire into the rights



of the Hindoopat Rajah and the usurpations he may have made upon others? and supposing the fact to be proved does such an injustice on his part give us any claim to the disputed districts? We are surprised that the absurdity of such pretensions did not strike you?" (11 May 1769 paras 6 & 7) The Court were fully aware that the policy of intervention might lead to infinite complications and their sentiments were clearly expressed in the following sentence—"The Hinduput Rajah who by all accounts is rich will naturally endeavour to form alliances to defend himself against this unexpected attack of the English, then you will say your honour is engaged and the army is to be led against other powers still more distant" (*Ibid*, para 9) In this particular case an offensive did not, however, develop. On another point the Court was even more emphatic. The President and Council wanted to have a blank *farman* for the *subahdar* of the Deccan to be filled up at their pleasure or at the pleasure of the President and Council of Madras if the Nizam as an ally of Hyder Ali continued to give trouble to the British. The Directors expressed their greatest disapproval of such a step and said that as the King was under their protection, the measure would tend to bring upon him the contempt of his own subjects besides making Nizam Ally an irreconcilable enemy. A peremptory order was given that the *farman* was to be returned to the King and that he was to be acquainted that "we will not suffer our servants to be guilty of such an abuse of the confidence he is pleased to repose in us" (*Ibid*, para 13) The Court reiterated its fixed resolution "to avoid as much as possible all further engagements with the country powers but faithfully to perform those which we already be under" (para 16) In their next letter the Court again emphasised the principles of their foreign policy (30 June 1769 paras 3 & 4)

The most prudent system we could pursue and the most likely to be attended with a permanent security would be to incline to those few chiefs of Indostan who yet preserve an independence of the Maratha power." The Court wanted to preserve friendship with the Nawab of Oudh, the Mysore Chief, the Nizam, the Rohillas and the Jats. This was the general view of the system by which the Directors wanted to see their affairs regulated. The Court was also opposed to the Select Committee's proposal of an alliance with Janoji.

But so far as relations with country powers were concerned, the Directors found that the President and Council would not listen to their behests unless these suited them. The sudden turns, swift changes and unforeseen developments in the situation of affairs left the initiative entirely in the hands of the men on the spot. The Court acknowledged the weakness of their position vis-à-vis the President and Council. In the general letter of 30 June 1769, the

Directors wrote: "The situation of affairs may be varied by unforeseen events at the very moment we are writing." In this matter, therefore, unable to exercise an effective control over their servants, the Court played an unimportant part. But there was another aspect of British Indian foreign policy—relations with rival European powers in India and so far as they were concerned at this stage at any rate, the initiative rested with the Court of Directors.

The Directors, as already noted above, suspected that their servants and free merchants residing with their permits helped the French and the Dutch Companies to secure cargoes more valuable than those of their own. The strictest enquiry was ordered and exemplary punishment recommended. But at the same time they wrote that they were pleased to hear that their servants supplied the Dutch with one-third of the "cutcha petre" one season and they did not disapprove of their servants supplying the French with 300 bags of salt-petre or of their making suitable amends for an insult offered to the chief at Chinsurah (4 March 1767 paras 24 & 25). The Court were anxious to avoid the appearance of giving any offence to the European rivals in India though they turned down the proposal of co-operating with foreign companies in the matter of investments. They did not like disagreeable altercations on unimportant matters. But frivolous disputes were not infrequent. The Directors saw in these disputes "mere indications of their envy at the growth of a power they cannot check". They insisted on their servants in India keeping these European rivals within proper limits, not directly but through the ministers of the Nawab. The President and Council were not to interfere except where the dispute lay between actual agents of the different companies. But suspicion of French intrigues with the country powers was very strong and the Court insisted on the utmost vigilance and advised their servants not to spare any pains to secure reliable information about the strength of the Isle de France and of the French settlements in India and on the slightest suspicion of their hostile intention to send the earliest notice according to the urgency of the case, either overland or by an express vessel. The Madras experiment of forwarding letters by French ships was not to be repeated as the letters were almost invariably lost (16 March 1768 paras 43 and 44; 20 November 1767 para 51; 11 November 1767 paras 54, 55, 56).

But the French East India Company was certainly not in a flourishing condition. The French King, by a decree issued in August 1769, suspended until further orders the exclusive trade of the French Company and opened it freely to all his subjects. The

Directors giving early notice of this event expected their servants to utilise this opportunity of increasing the investment and to purchase piecegoods and raw silk at cheaper rates. But as the French private traders might create a new situation, the President and Council, while observing the law of nations, were to remove any prejudices and inconveniences resulting to British interests. Detailed instructions were issued to the effect that these private traders were not to be helped by any person under the Company's jurisdiction. The Directors appear to have been very much dissatisfied with the state of intelligence regarding the French forces and one item of their instructions to the Commissioners headed by Mr. Vansittart demanded such an organisation of the intelligence services as would obtain for the Company "the most perfect intelligence of the proceedings of foreign companies not grounded on surmises but on information of matters of fact" (10 November 1769 para 28, Instructions to Commissioners, 15 September 1769 paras 31 & 32).

The Directors were eager not only to increase their trade in India but also to extend it to countries on the border. They wanted their servants in India to obtain the best intelligence as to whether trade could be opened with Nepal, whether cloth and other commodities from Europe could not find their way through Nepal to Tibet and Western China. The king of Pegu who was favourably disposed towards the East India Company, sent a ship as a present to the Governor and gave a site for the construction of a factory. The Directors thought that trade with Pegu would be to the advantage of the Company and the Government at Madras was directed to establish a factory there. Desirous of opening every channel for trade, the Directors wanted the President and Council at Calcutta to consider whether a "scheme of cutting sticks for Masts and Yards and procuring Pitch, Tar etc. in the Morung country" could be carried into execution. They also suggested the formation of an establishment on the island of Balambangan situated off the north-east of Borneo (16 March 1768 para 41; 17 March, 1769 para 22, para 111; 30 June 1769 para 30; 4 March 1767 para 17).

Trade with the Persian Gulf was important. For removal of the impediments and disadvantages from which the trade suffered, Governor Verelst sent a representation to the British ambassador at Constantinople who presented a memorial to the Porte. When the Court came to hear of it they expressed their surprise that the application was not made through the proper channel and that they had no previous information on that subject. Although this concerned the private trade of their servants, the Court insisted on observance of the correct procedure. The Directors wanted a naval

officer of experience with full powers from the King and the Company to negotiate and settle matters in the Persian Gulf. Affairs in the Gulf region were in great disarray. Dislocation of trade in the area concerned the Company as well as British private traders in India. As the consumption of British manufactures was thereby affected, the British government also took an interest in the matter. All these combined to lead to the appointment of Sir John Lindsay (11 November 1768 para 52; 15 September 1769 para 27).

The Court of Directors wanted to use their surplus revenue from Bengal for investment not only in Bengal but also in China. The annual investment of the East India Company in Bengal should be regarded as a drain of wealth though not of specie. The President and Council explained the altered situation due to the acquisition of territorial revenues in the following words—"Your trade from hence may be considered more as a channel for conveying your revenues to Britain than as only a Mercantile system"—(To Court, 25 April 1769 para 37). The annual investment amounted to an average of 63 lakhs (To Court, 28 March 1768 para 27). The Directors were insistent that their servants in Bengal should supply, without fail, silver bullion worth 24 lakhs a year for China investment (11 November 1768 para 33). They attached the greatest importance to the enlargement of the China trade so that other Europeans might be discouraged from trading in that market. The China trade was regarded almost as a national concern. They were even prepared to send silver to Canton from England. What the Company discouraged in Bengal it encouraged in China. The China Council was authorised to receive into the Company's cash up to £200,000 for bills of exchange on the Company in England. To encourage the flow of money into the China Council's hands very favourable terms were given (11 November 1768 paras 28-33).

It is also relevant to note in connection with the drain of wealth from Bengal that the Company expected that the President and Council in Bengal would supply money to other Presidencies whenever they stood in need of financial assistance. The Directors commended highly the promptitude with which Bengal sent ample supplies to Madras during the war with Hyder Ali. The President and Council informed the Court in their letter dated 2 February 1769 (para 48) "that no less a sum than 44,32,995... hath been sent to the coast for the support of the war there and the use of the China Investment". With a view to encouraging their servants in Bombay to exert themselves, the Directors decided to create an annual fund for their servants there. But as Bombay had no territorial revenues Bengal was to supply annually to Bombay  $1\frac{1}{3}$  lakhs of rupees

out of the *diam* revenues for this fund (16 March 1768 para 182) The Resident of Murshidabad secured bills in favour of Bombay for seven lakhs from merchants at Murshidabad. The Directors expected the President to be on the look out for drafts for future supplies to Bombay. This method of avoiding sending treasure from Bengal to other Presidencies was very welcome to the Court as it would enable the President and Council in Bengal to send bullion to China without much difficulty. When it was pointed out that the balance of trade was very much in favour of Bengal and that Bombay could not be supplied in this way in a regular manner, the Directors replied that they could not see the trade between the two Presidencies in that light and insisted on their watching every opportunity so that supplies could be released for the China trade (11 November 1768 para 34). The Directors refused to believe that there were sufficient grounds for apprehension of a scarcity of silver. The servants of the English East India Company in spite of their lavishness were able to remit vast fortunes through the French and the Dutch Companies. The Directors were, as these letters show, not unaware of the fact that this stopped the import of bullion by these rival companies and further complicated the situation created by the large exportation of bullion to China. The Directors refused to face the problem of scarcity of silver. They ascribed the distress mainly to the new gold currency which overvalued gold by 8 per cent with the result that silver replaced gold as hoarded metal and gold poured into Bengal from the neighbouring provinces in return for silver. The Directors expressed their strong resentment and ascribed all the ills to the overvaluation of gold and in their emphatic denunciation of the new measure they attributed this not to error of judgment but to corrupt motives (11 November 1768 paras 57 & 58).

In connection with the problem of scarcity of silver, the Court's view differed so much from that of their servants that it is necessary

to put the two views side by side and compare

Currency

The President and Council in Bengal argued that the balance of trade was in favour of Bengal only in respect of trade in the Persian Gulf and that only to the extent of rupees 5 to 6 lakhs per annum, while bullion exported to China and sent to the King amounted to 50 lakhs besides which large sums had to be sent to Madras. All this threatened to create a scarcity of silver. Against this the Directors pointed out that in Bengal the necessities of life were very cheap and she had a variety of manufactures and these advantages were very real when the conditions prevailing in the countries with which it traded were taken into account. The Company issued from its own treasury about 60 lakhs for investment, 120 lakhs for its expenses, 50 lakhs for the Nawab and his ministers

while private traders were also responsible for the circulation of large sums. When all these were taken into consideration the flow of specie could not be regarded as insufficient for either revenue or commerce. It could not, however, be overlooked by the Directors that the French and the Dutch Companies were not importing bullion in recent years. This was, according to the Directors, because the "amazing accumulation of private property obtained by the great sums extorted by our servants from the Nabob and his Ministers and the vast fortunes raised by the English taking to themselves the whole trade of the country, formed at once a vast mass of money, which supplied the other European Companies and prevented their exporting bullion from Europe". The Directors expressed a hope that this state of things would soon change and the foreign companies would have to import bullion. If they did not, the Court of Directors would extend their investment to take in that proportion of the manufactures which they now absorbed. The Court disbelieved the statement that the importation of silver was very small, because the coinage account showed that a very considerable quantity of foreign money was coined (11 November 1768 paras 60 & 61).

So far as Bengal was concerned, the Court refused to be drawn upon to an unlimited amount, notwithstanding all the arguments, some apparently very cogent, advanced by the  
 Bills of Exchange      President and Council. The drafts upon the East India Company by the ships were confined to £70,000 in 1768 and to the same amount in 1769 (11 November 1768 para 111) at the rate of two shillings for the current rupee, exclusive of Lord Clive's *jagir* "for which bills are to be granted".

But the Court permitted the President and Council, in case of emergency, to borrow at interest for one year such sums as would be necessary. This sum was to be paid off at the expiration of one year or earlier if the treasury showed the necessary surplus (*Ibid*, para 110). This method was preferred by the Court to bills of exchange. In their letter of 17 March 1769, the Court reconsidered the subject of remittance and wrote, "We find it so connected with that of investment that the increase of the former must always depend upon that of the latter." "With a view to unite the advantage of the Company and their servants", the Court permitted an increase of remittance from Bengal to the extent of one half of the sum by which investment sent to England exceed 60 lakhs in piecegoods and raw silk at the rate of 2s. 3d. the current rupee. In case, however, the investment sent to England in piecegoods and raw silk did not exceed the sum, the remittance was to remain at the level demarcated in the letter of 11 November 1768 (17 March

1768 para 39) Finally, in their general letter of 30 June 1769, having given due consideration to the arguments set forth in several letters to the Court, the Directors to some extent yielded to the representation of their servants. The inconvenience caused by the refusal to receive money into the Company's cash for bills to be drawn upon the East India Company in England was now obvious. The French and the Dutch were supplied with money by those Englishmen who wanted to send their savings to Europe. As the French and the Dutch insisted upon being paid in silver not merely were they able thereby to secure all their investment without importing bullion, but they even exported silver at times and it was not possible to enforce any order of the King or the Nawab prohibiting exportation because the English themselves exported silver to China and to Madras or Bombay. The Company was not in a position to pay bills in England to an unlimited amount. It was thought necessary 'to confine the drafts to some degree of proportion with investment'. As there was a considerable increase of investment the former orders relating to remittance were revoked and for the season the President and Council were empowered to draw for £200,000 and beyond that sum to the extent of specie they would be able to send to China. This was in addition to bills to be drawn for Clive's *jagir*. These bills were to be drawn for £200,000 at the rate of 2s 2½d per current rupee and at 365 days sight and bills for such further sums as would be sent to China were to be drawn at the rate of 2s 4d payable three years after sight. This difference was made in order that the Company might bring the 'amount of sale of the cargoes into circulation at the time the bills will become due' (paras 47-57).

The Court of Directors were eager and anxious to maintain military discipline so that no such episode as the Mutiny of 1764 might occur again. Having consulted Lord Clive and Generals Lawrence, Caillaud and Carnac, who were then in England, the Court made changes in the military establishments at the Presidencies. As the Company had so much at stake in Bengal these changes were meant especially for that province. The military establishment in Bengal was to consist of three regiments, each being divided into two battalions. The field officers were to be three Colonels, six Lieutenant Colonels and six Majors. The three regiments were to be composed altogether of 3165 men. The pay of the field officers was increased—a Colonel was to get £15s a day, a Lt Colonel £1 and a Major 15s. They were to get in addition to their share out of 2½ per cent of the revenues. There was to be a well regulated corps of artillery personnel numbering 446. The highest officer in the artillery section was to be a Lt Colonel. The

Military establish-  
ment

officers and men belonging to the artillery corps could not be removed to any other corps. The field officers in this branch, only two in number, were also to receive their share of the revenues. In the engineering corps, the Chief Engineer and the Director were to take rank as Lieutenant Colonel and Major, respectively. The persons in the engineering corps were not to be transferred to any other branch. The two chief officers in this branch were to get in addition to their pay, their share of the revenues. Three lieutenant colonels, three majors, fourteen captains, one captain lieutenant and seventeen lieutenants were sent to make this new army organisation a success. New appointments were also made in the artillery and engineering branches. Ranking rules were also framed and communicated. The entire military establishment was placed under the Governor and Council and they were empowered to take away any officer's commission on misbehaviour without bringing the matter before a court martial. The outlines settled, the regulations of the military establishment were to be framed by the Government of Bengal. The Directors desired a similarity of system throughout the three Presidencies as far as possible (16 March 1768 paras 77-123).

In view of the increase of European infantry, a reduction in the number of sepoys was recommended. The army so reorganised was to consist of a standing force of three European regiments, one artillery battalion and 15,000 sepoys. Eight independent battalions of sepoys were to be maintained for collection of the revenues. The Company's army was thus to be far superior to any force that could be brought into the field by any country power. The Directors thought that the increased proportion of Europeans to sepoys in the army would add to British safety. The most interesting suggestion in this connection was that made by Lord Clive and passed on by the Directors to the President and Council to the effect that the sepoy battalions should be composed of an equal number of Hindus and Mussalmans as this would encourage a rivalry in discipline. The Court further directed that the recruitment of Bengal sepoys was to be made in Bihar and Orissa to avoid desertion and treachery (11 November 1768 para 107).

It has been generally argued that the famine of 1770 by exposing the shortcomings of the double Government, was responsible for the

Court of Directors' decision to assume direct responsibility for the *diwani*, but the letters of the period (1767-69) reveal that the Directors were already in a mood to criticise the administration of the *Naib Dewan* and were already asking their own servants to intervene. The decision to abolish the offices of *Naib Dewan* of Bengal and of Bihar and to stand forth as the *Dewan*

Growing tendency  
to criticise existing  
arrangements



which was made three years later, could not come as a surprise to the servants of the East India Company. In 1765, the Court understood by the acceptance of the *de jure diwani* "nothing beyond the superintending the collection of the revenues and the receiving the money from the Nabob's treasury to that of the Dewany." The Resident at the Durbar was to remedy any abuses in the government and to stand between the administration and any encroachments from the agents of the Company's servants (Letter dated 19 February 1766). In the general letter dated 11 November 1768 (para 89) the Court expressed their pleasure at the efficiency displayed by their servants in the revenue administration of the Calcutta lands as also of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong and wrote, 'We would have such of our servants as distinguished themselves in this important branch employed therein whenever the Resident at the Durbur requires the assistance of able hands to investigate any abuses that may be committed in any particular province.' Then, in the letter dated 30 June 1769 (para 16) the Court expressed their desire to appoint controllers for the management of *diwani* revenues and junior covenanted servants to correct the abuses. In the instructions issued to the Commissioners on 15 September 1769 from which extracts were appended to the general letter of the same date, the Commissioners were asked to superintend and regulate the collection of revenues and as has been pointed out it was even thought desirable that the Resident at the Durbur should have a council or proper assistants at the chief places of collection "who should have power to conduct and regulate the mode and charges of collection and reform all abuses therein and to whom the complaints of the inhabitants may at all times find free access." Firminger, in his introduction to the Fifth Report (CLXIX) draws our attention to the contrast between the very elaborate nature of the instructions to the Commissioners Vansittart, Scafton and Forde and the laconic acceptance of the *diwani* five years earlier. It should also be noted that the letter of 28 August 1771 which communicated the decision "to stand forth as the Dewan" was not accompanied by any instruction as to the plan and execution of the decision and this absence of instructions was commented upon by the Committee of Circuit in their Proceedings dated 28 July 1772. But Mill (Vol III, p. 365) points out that for this absence of instructions the servants of the East India Company did not make any grievance. It may be added that the servants of the East India Company knew quite well what the Directors meant by the care and management of the revenues. The series of general letters and the instructions issued to the Commissioners had made that quite clear. In 1771 the only new factor was the grievous disappointment of the Court of Directors in their expectations of treasure from India.

The principles and policies that guided the Court of Directors become clear as we peruse these letters. The Court's awkward position is also manifest. The proprietors expected a great surplus revenue; the public in England also believed in the flattering accounts of the benefit that the administration would derive from a recurring annual surplus from India. There was an atmosphere in England "full of the credulity of violent wishes". As this hope was belied, the Directors thought that this was due entirely to the existence of abuses in their Indian government. It was expected that the three Commissioners with extraordinary powers would be able to set things right. The Commissioners were however, drowned on the way and the experiment was never tried. The Company could not create a spirit of "temperance, economy and application" in its service, and it is clear that the Court of Directors with their expectation of torrents of treasure, was not the institution that could create "a principle of government adequate to the substance"—at this stage at any rate.

Besides principles and policies, these letters also reveal several interesting facts. In the letter dated 17 March 1769 (para 74) an order was issued that no Englishman was to take an Indian to England without submitting Sundries beforehand a security of £50. It appears that many Indians were taken to England as servants by Englishmen or their families returning home. Many of them were deserted by their masters and left destitute there. They naturally approached the Court of Directors to meet the expenses of the return journey to India. In such circumstances, the Directors had to pay them their passage back home. The security of £50 was demanded to reimburse the Company in such cases. Besides these destitute Indian servants in England, the "black writers" in India also catch the eye of the reader of these letters. In the letter dated 4 March 1767 (para 9) the Directors wrote, "We expect that you will have entirely dismissed all black writers and that none but covenanted servants remain employed at our offices". The Select Committee in their letter dated 24 March 1766\* had informed the Court that the situation in Bengal was such that many young writers held such appointments as those of secretary, accountant, military store-keeper, naval store-keeper, store-keeper of the works and pay-master of the army. As they did not understand their business, they took the assistance of their banians and "black writers" who presumably also managed their private trade. Thus through them the most secret details of the Company's business was known in the bazars. Therefore Clive and the Select Committee appointed senior servants to these posts. The Directors

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\* Verelst, *A view of the English Government in Bengal*, Appendix.

in their letter of 4 March 1767 referred to above expressed a hope that the 'black writers' had all been dismissed

There could not possibly be any cultural association between Indians and Englishmen in those days because the Indians with whom Englishmen came into business contact did not certainly represent the cultured element of the population and with some remarkable exceptions Englishmen themselves had no cultural pretensions. Ramlal Sen, author of the first Anglo-Bengali dictionary, says in the preface that the first English captain who came to infant Calcutta asked after his arrival for a *dhobhasia* or interpreter, a term familiar in commercial intercourse in Calicut and Madras but not in Calcutta. The Setts who were then the agents of the East India Company understood the term to mean a *dhoti* or washerman. To that washerman who made good use of his monopoly, belongs the honour of being the first English scholar in Bengal, if, of course the term scholar can be used in this limited sense. In those days a smattering of substantives, adverbs and interjections constituted the English vocabulary of the people who associated with the British. Agents of a more respectable class were not in demand. We do not know how much English the *dadny* merchants, the *patkars* and the *bansians* learnt. We find that the Court of Directors were rather anxious that their servants should learn 'the Moorish and gentoo languages' (15 September 1769 para 31) but there is no evidence of any anxiety that the natives living in Calcutta and the surrounding areas should learn the use of the English language to be of help in British business and administration.

## LETTERS TO COURT

Of the letters to Court the most remarkable is that of 5 April 1769 in which Governor Verelst analyses the true sources of the proverbial opulence of Bengal and the causes of its degeneration under the rule of the East India Company. The letter is reproduced in full in the appendix to his book *A View of the English Government in Bengal*. Verelst says that Bengal having a great variety

and abundance of agricultural produce and excellent manufactures had no necessity for imported goods. Her agricultural products and manufactures attracted foreign merchants by their cheapness and superior quality. As the people of Bengal wanted very few foreign commodities the foreign merchants had to import specie. Besides European merchants traders from Gujarat, Lahore and even Ispahan imported specie into Bengal in order to buy her silk cloth and

other goods. The farmers and workmen shared in a general opulence and the ready sale of their goods enabled them to meet all their needs. Verelst adds that the customs office books as Murshidabad in Alivardi Khan's time showed an entry of 70 lakhs under raw silk alone. This was exclusive of European investment which was not registered at Murshidabad and which was either duty-free or paying duty at Hugli. But the rulers in those days gave back with one hand what they took with the other. The luxury and pomp of the princes and princelings led to lavish expenditure, with the result that money went back to the people instead of being locked up in the treasury or being sent abroad. There was a brisk circulation of specie. "The farmer was easy, the artisan encouraged, the merchant enriched and the prince satisfied." This was the state of things till 1757. The decline set in with the battle of Plassey. The Company got so much bullion that it did not import specie any more. The servants of the Company, unable to remit their ill-gotten wealth through the Company, put it into the treasuries of the French and the Dutch Companies in return for bills of exchange on them. So the foreign companies also no longer imported bullion. The old stock of specie was, however, very soon exhausted. Further, repeated revolutions at Murshidabad ruined many families. Mir Qasim, in his eagerness to increase his military strength, drained the country and ruined some of its richest inhabitants. It has been said that he took with him about five crores in jewels and cash when he fled from the province. The Gujarati, the Mughal or the Ispahani trader ceased coming to Bengal, because the English merchant had gained an unfair advantage over them. The European monopoly of commerce was of the least advantage to the province. According to the estimate of Verelst, if we take the import and export of bullion during the years 1766-68 into consideration there was a balance to the extent of Rs. 4,88,50,000 against the country. The European free merchant after some years would wind up his affairs and pay his gains into some European company's cash for bills, thus rendering importation of bullion more unnecessary. Again, the King's tribute, the expenses of the Allahabad contingent, etc. also contributed to the drain of specie. There was an annual loss of currency "equal to the difference between the aggregate of the investment and disbursements and the total revenue". Verelst advanced an impassioned plea in favour of permitting servants of the East India Company to send their remittances through the Company on equitable terms so that foreign nations might be compelled to import specie to Bengal.

Verelst's analysis is vitiated by the undue emphasis laid on the importance of the flow of specie into the country. The easy procurement of a medium of exchange was no doubt a great advantage, but

the theory that prosperity depended merely upon the abundance of precious metals is untenable. In the days of Alivardi Khan the land settlement was made on moderate terms, there was free trade and the East India Company had not begun to use the surplus revenue for commercial investment. Prosperity depended then, as always, on the abundance of things exchanged and not on the counters used. The drain of wealth from Bengal is noticed by Verelst but is not duly emphasised. Invasion of the inland trade is referred to but attention is focussed mainly on the shortage of currency.

On account of the drain of specie and the consequent scarcity of silver, the President and Council embarked on currency experiments which, however, proved futile. The first  
 Currency complications venture was made by Lord Clive in June 1766

As silver was scarce, a bimetallic standard was adopted. New gold coins were issued that raised the value of gold in terms of silver by 8 per cent (Court's letter 11 November 1768). It was expected that hidden hoards of gold would come out and add to the current specie. But the result was quite different, for Gresham's law operated. As the Court argued, "No one would part with gold except for a consideration and that consideration could be only silver. Therefore, there was so much silver hoarded up instead of gold" (11 November 1768). The Court of Directors in their letter dated 16 March 1768 informed the President and Council that allegation was actually made in the general Court of Proprietors that 'great advantage was made by individuals on the sudden rise in the price of gold'. The Directors themselves, in the general letter dated 11 November 1768, brought the charge that those who took the lead in these matters must have secretly bought up large quantities of gold"

In the meantime the President and Council disappointed in their "motive for establishing a gold currency" were determined to put an end to this experiment and were supported by the mint master (13 September 1768, para 80). In view of "the many and pressing complaints which were made of the grievances accruing both to Trade in General and to Domestick Expences in particular" from the introduction of the gold currency and in view of the doubts expressed about the wisdom of the continuance of the gold currency (16 March 1768, para 59), the Governor and Council resolved to recall all gold mohurs. But they could not give effect to this resolution in view of the absence of a surplus of silver between March and September. They, however, thought that as the payment of the revenue in silver would begin, the situation would improve. The Council resolved on "calling in all Gold

Mohurs of the New Currency and abolishing the Establishment and of giving Interest Notes payable at the Expiration of twelve months for all Sums above and of the Value of 1,000 Rupees paid into the Treasury within the space of fifteen days after the Publication of this Resolution" (para 84). It was noted in the postscript that the number of coins received into the treasury amounted to 1,20,161 out of a total of 1,28,728 (25 September 1768, para 17). Verelst and his Council thus gave up this gold currency upon an arbitrary valuation in September 1768, but in March 1769 again embarked on another experiment at bimetallism. After consulting the principal bankers, banians, merchants and ministers they once again recommended to the Nizamat a new gold currency in which they made the same mistake of overvaluing gold. They wrote that they had profited by the mistake of the previous administration which was due to inexperience. In their present establishment they sought to "observe equitable proportion between the value of gold and silver which is nearly equal to what it bears in all the countries of the world". But this experiment failed as gold was still overvalued though not to the same extent as before. The phrase "nearly equal" explains the ultimate failure of this experiment as well. It is relevant to note that shortly after this second experiment at bimetallism was begun in India, the Court of Directors issued instructions to the effect (11 May 1769, para 18) that in future silver was to be the only medium of commerce in Bengal and gold, though coined, must be regarded as bullion. The court issued very positive orders—"We do most positively direct you do not under any pretence whatever presume to make any alteration in the original and established standard for weight and fineness of the gold mohurs and silver rupees which may from time to time be coined in our mint at Calcutta and whoever shall be guilty of a breach of this order will incur an immediate dismissal." But before this letter arrived the second experiment at bimetallism had been launched and the President and Council reported that the mohurs struck at the mints of Dacca, Patna, and Murshidabad met with a ready circulation. But in the existing circumstances failure was inevitable.

The President and Council had the benefit of the advice of Mr. Campbell, the Assaymaster. But they were unable to grasp the difficulties of the currency problem. Their one great panacea was bimetallism, but that was really no solution in the existing circumstances. The Directors were better informed in this matter and wanted to pursue the traditional policy. The Court also directed its attention to the fixing of the *sicca* rupee on a permanent footing. Bengal had a variety of rupees, *sicca*, *sonaut*, *arcot*, *dasmassa*, etc. Altogether twentyseven varieties were current. In this matter the President and Council advised by the Assaymaster as

also by Muhammad Riza Khan did not think that the measure was practicable. The Court had a very strong desire to have only one specie of rupees current in Bengal (20 November 1767, para 125; 11 November 1768, para 65). In view of the fact that coins in those days were not properly milled, clipping and adulteration of the coins were very common. The prevailing practice was to regard the coins of the current year (*sicca*) as *sonaut* next year and there was a progressive fall every year in the value of the coin. This gave the shroffs or money changers a unique position. With different varieties of coins current and with *siccas* and *sonauts* of the same currency in the market they very much abused their position by charging *baltas* on exchange of the several species at their pleasure. The opinion expressed by Mr. Campbell was that wholesale recoinage of all the different varieties after withdrawing them from circulation was necessary. The Directors, on the other hand, did not think this indispensable for the success of the scheme of preventing the annual fall in the price of the rupee. Various expedients were tried later during the regime of Hastings but without success and it was only in the days of Cornwallis that wholesale recoinage with the inevitable loss to the Company was resorted to in order to make one kind of rupees current in Bengal.

The last general letter to Court signed by Lord Clive contains an elaborate justification of the acceptance of the *diwani* from the standpoint of his masters. It removed all causes

The Company and of contention with the Government, secured the Country govern- funds for investment and if necessary for purposes of war. It ensured, according to Clive, respect for the power of the East India Company. Clive wanted that the East India Company should be regarded as the "spring which concealed under the shadow of the Nabab's name secretly gives motion to this vast machine of Government without offering violence to the original constitution". Clive's statement that the present arrangement ensured "security to property, freedom to trade, and protection to the persons of the natural inhabitants" was intended to satisfy the conscience of the Directors and had no relation to facts.

The actual state of affairs can be ascertained from these letters which give illuminating details about the powers of the various authorities under the new regime—the Nawab, the *Naib Dewans* and the Resident at the Nawab's Court. The functions of the *diwani* were exercised by the Resident at the Durbar under the inspection and control of the Select Committee. In conjunction with Muhammad Riza Khan the Resident superintended the collections. The Chief at Patna who superintended the collections in Bihar jointly with Shitab Roy was subordinate to the Resident

at the Durbar. The Resident at the Durbar was directed to forward all correspondence with the natives to the President and Council to be transmitted to the Court of Directors in their general packet. The *diwani* business was regarded as purely political and was kept separate from that of the former possessions. The Resident at the Durbar between 1767-69 was Sykes. After his resignation Becher took his place. A Deputy Resident was appointed to relieve him of the duties of his onerous employment.

We have a very clear view of the use that was sought to be made of the Imperial dignity. As the President and Council wrote in the letter of 25 September 1768, with Shah Alam ever ready to comply with British requests, the British could at all times impose such restraints as were politically necessary on the other nations trading in India without raising any international complication. The king's authority might be utilised for issuing sanads in favour of the rivals of those powers who were inimical to the Company and needed to be chastised. The Court of Directors though not unwilling to use royal authority for restraining non-Indian powers definitely refused to countenance an abuse of royal power and prestige by the issue of *sanads* against rival Indian powers.

Muhammad Riza Khan, who was entrusted with the collection of the royal revenue under the immediate inspection of the Resident at the Durbar, undoubtedly played a very important part in the history of Bengal during these years. When an organisation was set up for carrying on the functions of the *diwani*, Riza Khan, Shitab Roy and Roy Durlabh were not assigned any salary but were dependent upon their perquisites. Muhammad Riza Khan subsequently represented that this was not as it should be. If the principal officers depended upon perquisites, they might be tempted to pursue measures that were oppressive and to connive at corruption and illegal exactions. It was, therefore, decided to establish a fund of Rs. 12 lakhs for these three dignitaries and the Governor was empowered to fix the salary. Muhammad Riza Khan's past services, his abilities, his promise to increase the revenues, his relinquishment of perquisites amounting to rupees eight lakhs per annum marked him out for special consideration. Muhammad Riza Khan was a *persona grata* with the President and Council at Calcutta, but a perusal of the general letters from Court gives an impression that the Court of Directors did not think highly of his honesty, integrity and ability. The Court demanded explanation from the President and Council for withholding information respecting the charge against Muhammad Riza Khan of not having submitted a proper account of the revenues of Dacca for the period he was *naib* there under Mir Jafar (17 March 1769, para 78). In the matter of the



gold currency experiment and the connected question of the diversity of rupee coins above referred to Muhammad Riza Khan's views betrayed, according to the Court, the "awkwardness of a Man who is maintaining an Argument against the Conviction of his own Mind". In fact, the Directors made it clear that they regarded Muhammad Riza Khan as a phant tool in the hands of their servants at Calcutta. In their letter of 11 November 1768 they drew the attention of the Calcutta authorities to a report that several of the senior servants had brought up large quantities of cotton on speculation and had prevailed upon Muhammad Riza Khan to levy a duty of 35 per cent on all cotton to be imported and that Muhammad Riza Khan had even served as an agent for the sale of this cotton. They demanded information and asked the President to submit an explanation if the report were true. In a supplement to the general letter dated 25 April 1769 the President expressed his righteous indignation, but could not deny that there was some truth in the allegation. "It is true," he admitted, 'that a Quantity of Cotton was commissioned from Bombay and the President himself had a concern therein as well as several Gentlemen in Station which concern he disposed of on coming to the Government,—it is likewise true that a small Proportion of the whole was disposed of at the City by Mahomed Reza Cawn. This was no Secret Transaction but was as publicly known as any other in the common course of Trade—no unlawful means no abuse of Influence were employed—on the Contrary while the proprietors were themselves selling at Calcutta at 19 and 20, Mahomed Reza Cawn procured for them no more than 18 Sols at the City a price even less advantageous than any of their Subsequent Sales if Interest and Charges are included." The Governor could not deny that Muhammad Riza Khan from his very high station was actually helping the senior servants of the Company to dispose of their goods. In their attitude towards Muhammad Riza Khan the Court of Directors and their servants in India differed so much from each other that it did not come as a surprise when the Court of Directors ordered in 1771 that Muhammad Riza Khan should be tried for malversation and on other charges. Moreover, disappointed in the income from the revenues of Bengal the Directors were for a long time inclined to find a scapegoat and the proceedings against the *Natib Diwan* can thus be easily explained.

Cartier's administration saw a conflict between the two arms of the Company's Government in Bengal—the Select Committee and the Council. During the period from 1767 to 1769 there was of course no such dispute to distract attention, but the ambiguity about the respective functions of the Council and the Select Committee that

made the dispute almost inevitable did not go unnoticed. The Select Committee was brought into existence by the Court of Directors (General letter dated 1 June 1764, para 67) to help Lord Clive to establish peace, tranquillity and subordination in Bengal. In the letter to Court dated 24 January 1767, Lord Clive explained how he marked out the respective provinces of the Select Committee and the Council—the Council to be in charge of disbursement of money, investment, Calcutta lands, Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, factories and *aurungs*, trade and navigation and the Select Committee to make treaties, contract alliances, to supervise operations of war, to control the *diwani* collections through the Resident at the Durbar and to carry on correspondence with the country powers. But even after Lord Clive's departure, the Select Committee was not dissolved. The Court's letter dated 12 January 1768 (paras 9 and 10) confirmed the Select Committee. It was "to conduct everything that related to the Country Government, either with respect to the Duannee or the Company's Political Interests with the neighbouring Powers, together with the Military operations depending thereon. It was not to conclude any Treaty of Commerce or Alliance without the Approbation of the Council at large". It was to superintend only the collection of the *diwani* revenues but not to disburse them. All other matters including the superintendence of the revenues from the Company's other possessions were placed under the Council. Though military operations were to be conducted under the orders of the Select Committee, "the supreme military power is vested in the Board at large conformable to the usual Practice".

The Court of Directors, in their letter of 30 June 1769 sent instructions for the establishment of two councils for the management of *diwani* revenues, one at Murshidabad and the other at Patna. For the speedy accomplishment of their plan of reform, they specially chartered the ship *Lapwing* to convey the three Commissioners nominated to carry it into execution. The Commissioners were ship-wrecked. As they did not arrive, a dispute began between the Select Committee and the Council as to whether in the absence of the Commissioners they should carry out the orders of the Court of Directors. The Council argued that as the letter in question was addressed to it, the plan for the establishment of the two councils was to be put into execution by it in the absence of the Commissioners. The Select Committee on the other hand held that the powers given to them in the 10th paragraph of the letter dated 12 January 1768 remained unrevoked and that if the Court had intended otherwise they would not have left their sentiments in any doubt. That the letter was addressed to the Council proved nothing, as it was usual for the Court to address

the Committee through the Council. The Select Committee cited paragraphs 58, 59, 60 of the general letter dated 16 March 1768, as also paragraphs 68, 108 and 120 of the general letter of 11 May 1769 in support of their contention and insisted that the supervisorship plan should remain in force until the orders of the Directors were known.

It is not intended to give here the whole story of the dispute between the Select Committee and the Council. That is to be discussed in its proper place in Vol. VI. But the Directors were themselves responsible to some extent for the conditions that later led to the unfortunate wrangle. Verelst visualized such a possibility in his last letter to the Council, dated 16 December 1769 (*A View of the English Government in Bengal*, App. p. 124). He wrote, "The whole weight of business is confined to two departments, the committee and council. Neither are these departments thoroughly defined or understood if we judge from comparing different orders and paragraphs of their general letters. The Court of Directors themselves are at a loss where the precise line of each is drawn, sometimes attributing to the Council what belongs to the Committee and again transferring from one to the other without rule or distinction."

The Mayor's Court was composed of nine members to try all civil cases in Calcutta. The President and Council heard appeals from the Mayor's Court and in cases of the Mayor's Court value of 1,000 pagodas or upwards a further appeal lay to the King in Council. Three members of the Mayor's Court, the Mayor or the Senior Alderman being one, could try all civil causes. The Mayor's Court was designed for the "Government and benefit" of Europeans and it was held that "the natives having their peculiar customs should still enjoy them and nothing should be done to break the settled rules of the place". The Mayor's Court's Charter of 1753 created a Court of Requests for the recovery of petty debts. By the Charter of 1726 the Mayor's Court was empowered to select persons to fill vacancies, but by the Charter of 1753 this right of electing alderman was transferred to the Governor and Council. The Mayor's Court had jurisdiction over British subjects, Indians in the employ of the Company and other residents of Calcutta who willingly placed themselves under its jurisdiction. It administered the laws of England as they stood in 1753. In 1767, according to Bolts (*Considerations* p. 85), it was composed partly of Company's servants and partly of free European merchants. "The salary of an Alderman was only about 25 pounds per annum which will scarcely pay one month's house rent in Calcutta" (Bolts).

The greatest weakness of the Mayor's Court was that it was composed of persons who were nominated by, and were, as such, subject to the influence and control of, the Governor and Council. Bolts in his *Considerations* gives many instances of interference by the Governor or Governor and Council with the proceedings of the Court and almost succeeds in proving that it was "hazardous to undertake a suit especially in matters of arbitrary proceedings or oppression wherein the Governor, the Council or any of their favourites have been in the least interested on behalf of the defendants." Bolts further asserts that only those free European merchants were employed as judges of the Mayor's Court who were safe men from the standpoint of the Governor and Council and they were accorded the privilege of *dastaks* for duty-free private trade in direct violation of the rule which confined free private trade to servants of the Company only. It is relevant to note that the directors during their scrutiny of the list of *dastaks* noticed names of many persons who were not the Company's servants (11 November 1768, para 89).

Being the appointing authority, the President and Council could also remove an alderman for misconduct in his office though only after a proper hearing of his defence. This was not perhaps done in the case of Bolts who preferred an appeal to the King in Council against his removal from the Mayor's Court by the President and Council. But the Mayor's Court does not seem to have been habitually servile. In their letter dated 10 April 1767 the President and Council reported that the Mayor's Court had afforded protection to Mr. William Atkinson, employed as an attorney of the Mayor's Court, in defiance of the request of the President and Council to dismiss him. He was a servant of the East India Company at Fort Marlborough, but had resigned from service there for reasons of health. Under pretence of returning to England, he had come to Bengal and taken service as an attorney of the Mayor's Court and was neglecting repeated orders to return to England. In spite of the intransigence of the Mayor's Court, the President and Council hoped to be able to send him back to England the following year. Another interesting episode was the institution of a suit against those servants of the Company who had received presents at the accession of the late Nawab. Full restitution was demanded from Playdell, Middleton and the attorneys of those who had returned to England. The President and Council informed the Court of Directors, "Upon enquiry we find that none of their effects are in possession of the Company and we apprehend that scruples will arise in the Mayor's Court as to the power of attaching such effects as may be deposited in the hands of the agents or of the natives."

The Governor and Council did not exactly complain that the Mayor's Court was inefficient, but on one occasion expressed their contempt for the profession of law in Calcutta 'as exercised by men who seem to derive all their knowledge by inheritance or to possess it from intuition without previous study or application'. The general impression was that 'justice gained little by the establishment of the Mayor's Court (Kaye—*History of the Administration of the East India Company*, 1853, pp 320-21) though the Company could thereby "avoid civil litigation against it in England due to executive intermeddling with private property" (Fawcett, *The First Century of British Justice in India*, 1934, p 216). Though the Mayor's Court at Calcutta had been in existence since 1726, as late as 1769 the Governor and Council in their capacity of a court of appeal enquired of the Court of Directors as to 'whether the Mayors Court have a power of granting to a native the Administration of the Effects of a deceased native and whether an Appeal lies from a judgment of the Mayors Court in their Ecclesiastical Capacity'. In all cases of wills and administration the Mayors Court had a distinct and separate authority, but the Governor and Council argued that as the charter 'disqualified the natives from suing each other without mutual consent the administrator of the effects of a deceased could not be sued by the kindred in the Mayors Court in case of maladministration'. Besides it would be contrary to the very spirit of the Charter which leaves the Natives to their own Laws and Customs (28 March 1769 para 46).

Though the Court of Directors laid down the principles of their foreign policy they could not, in the existing circumstances attempt to give positive directions. They merely gave a general view of the system which they wanted to be pursued and left it to the Select Committee to take every opportunity of drawing towards that point (30 June 1769 para 5).

One very important fact governing the attitude of the Select Committee towards the country powers was the Durrani menace. The last invasion of Ahmed Shah Abdali took place in 1767 but every winter there were rumours of an invasion and in 1769 intelligence even arrived that he had reached Lahore. In 1767 it was believed in Calcutta that the zeal of the Abdali had been quickened by the intrigues of Mir Qasim. In view of this emergency and the possibility of his invading the Vazir's country or advancing towards the royal domains of Kora and Allahabad and even to Bihar and Bengal vigorous measures were adopted. There was a British detachment already at Allahabad. Five battalions of sepoys were advanced to Serajpore and it was arranged that the second

brigade and a portion of the third would join these advanced battalions whenever necessary. All the Indian powers were informed of the measures adopted by the British. The Emperor and Shujaud-Daulah were earnest in 1767 for a composition with the Abdali and it was British pressure alone that prevented Shah Alam from sending Munirud-Daula with acknowledgments unworthy of royal dignity. The Select Committee wanted to take credit with the Court of Directors by asserting that British preparations had something to do with the retreat of the Abdali. "We learn from authority," they wrote, "that the valour, the discipline and the number of our troops have been reported to Abdallah with such exaggeration as seemed then to stagger his resolution". In reality the mutiny of his own soldiers, the very stiff opposition of the Sikhs and difficulties in other parts of his dominion were the factors that contributed to his retreat.

The Governorship of Verelst saw a continuation of the plan of Clive which assigned to the Vazir and the Mughal Emperor the key positions in the scheme of things. The provinces of Kora and Allahabad yielded to the Emperor 27 lakhs with which he supported a military force which was however an army only in name. With the Bengal tribute of 26 lakhs he defrayed the expenses of his Court and household. Shujaud-Daula of Oudh had an income of 1 crore 27 lakhs with which he maintained 11 battalions of sepoys and a good body of horse, artillery and magazines. "Active but desultory"—Shujaud-Daulah was regarded as a proper instrument for the realisation of the Select Committee's plan of making the Company "the umpires of Hindostan". The Court of Directors were more modest in their ambition and their aim was only to maintain the tranquillity of Bengal. The Court talked of confining their views to the revenues of Bengal and their existing possessions (Instructions to the Commissioners) but the Select Committee wanted "to hold the general balance of Hindusthan and to crush every combination in the bud by spiriting up some neighbouring power who may be either ill-disposed or at best not favourable to the confederates". The Court wanted the brigade at Allahabad to be withdrawn, but the Select Committee would not do so in 1767 in view of the Abdali menace, nor in 1768 because it suddenly developed suspicions of the motives of Shujaud-Daulah and regarded the maintenance of a brigade out of the bounds of Bengal and Bihar essential to its plan. "The situation of Allahabad and the stationing of a brigade there renders the plan still more practicable. Its situation makes it in some measures the key of the surrounding countries and its vicinity to the several countries of Shujaud-Daula, the Rohillas, the Jats and the Mahrattas enable it to penetrate their views with more certainty and in case of necessity to enter any part with our army in ten or fifteen days, where we have either an ally to support or an enemy to punish."

The Select Committee made a very determined stand. It expressed astonishment at the positive orders sent for withdrawing the brigade from Allahabad. "Such an absolute restriction without permitting us on the spot to judge how far from time and circumstances such a measure may be pursued must on some future occasion be productive of the utmost evil consequences to your affairs" (13 September 1768, paras 2 & 122). The Court took strong exception to the language of this communication and wrote back thus: "To say that you are astonished at our orders is as useless as unbecoming"—(Court's letter, 30 June 1769, para 6).

One creditable achievement of Verelst's administration was that it succeeded in bringing about an accommodation between the Nawab Vazir of Oudh and the Mughal Emperor at Allahabad. Disputes and jealousies between the Emperor and his Vazir continued throughout 1767. Shah Alam had to be reminded that the East India Company and Shujaud-Daula "reciprocally entered into solemn engagements for the security of his person, the defence of Shuja's dominions and the peace and tranquillity of the provinces" (24 March 1768, para 6). But Shah Alam, according to the British version, was very much dependent upon Munirud-Daula who poisoned the ears of the Emperor against his Vazir. But the Emperor could not easily forget how shabbily Shujaud-Daula had treated him before. However, by March 1768 Shah Alam was persuaded to confer a robe of honour on the Vazir. But the Select Committee became now suspicious of the motives of Shujaud-Daula. The President and the Select Committee held opposite views on this point. The President wrote, "No satisfactory evidence appears of the Nabab ever proposing a war with us unless we admit rumours and surmises for proofs or suppose that his increase of force could not be made with any views to others except ourselves" (25 September 1758, para 7). The Select Committee was, however, of opinion that rapid progress made by Shujaud-Daula in arming, disciplining and increasing his troops and the connections he was rumoured to be establishing with different powers showed that he was contemplating a rupture with the British. The President was inclined to ascribe these rumours to Munirud-Daula's machinations. But the Select Committee was influenced by the suspicions of Col. Smith and resolved to take definite steps on the assumption that Shujaud-Daula was unfriendly. Adequate arrangements were made for provisioning the fort of Allahabad and a supply of money was sent there. The garrison at Chunar was reinforced. It was also decided to send a deputation to Shujaud-Daula for "candid" investigation. The deputation was to consist of Cartier and Col. Smith of the Select Committee and Russell of the Council. The second brigade, it was arranged, would march to the Karamnassa to force the Nawab to

bring matters to an issue. The third brigade at Allahabad naturally continued as a check on the Vazir.

The Nawab Vazir yielded to British demands; he was not in a position to do otherwise. He agreed to reduce his troops to 10,000 infantry and 10 to 12 thousand cavalry. In order to save his face he was to make a tender of his remaining troops as recruits to the British brigades, "to prevent odium and to convince Indian powers of his steady attachment to British interests". The meeting between the deputies and Shujaud-Daula took place at Benares and a treaty was concluded on 28 November 1768. He accompanied the deputies to Allahabad and was received by the Emperor. According to the Select Committee, the Nawab Vazir was thus made after this limitation of his forces, "formidable to others, secure in himself and not alarming to the British" (25 September 1768, para 8). This reconciliation between the Emperor and the Nawab Vazir, the two British allies was very much in British interest and this as well as the complete dependence of Shujaud-Daula on the British power was now secured.

After the conclusion of the Treaty of Benares, it could be expected that the Select Committee would henceforth adhere fully to the principles of foreign policy enunciated by the Court of Directors. But this was not to be. The Select Committee next projected the plan of inducing the Mughal Emperor to give up Kora to Shujaud-Daula in exchange for the sarkars of Ghazipur and Benares and the fortress of Chunar. The parganas of the Hindupat Raja according to this scheme were to be appropriated to the use of the Emperor in order to make good the difference in the revenue. This rectification of the frontier was considered necessary according to the Select Committee, as the royal domains lay too much within the country of Shujaud-Daula. The Select Committee made these tentative suggestions to the deputies who, however, gave their opinion that in view of the war of the Company with Haidar Ali, the execution of such a project would be improper. As has already been shown, the Court of Directors expressed themselves definitely against the project of seizing the Hindupat Raja's country for the Emperor. It is, however, relevant to note that after the departure of Emperor Shah Alam for Delhi in 1772, Warren Hastings as Governor adopted a plan of territorial adjustment more or less on the lines proposed by the Select Committee in their letter of January 1769. The situation was then simplified by the departure of Shah Alam, but in 1769 it was unlikely that he would have agreed to retreat further from his capital or to exchange royal domains for zamindari tracts. Shah Alam was anxious to be restored to the capital of his ancestors. He wanted British help. In their letter



dated 30 September 1769 (para 6) the Select Committee informed the Court that in the opinion of the majority, in his attempt at restoration, the Emperor was to have two battalions of British sepoys to safeguard his person. He was also to have a supply of 600 stands of small arms. The expedition did not, however, take place as arranged. The decision of the majority to help the Emperor was in direct opposition to the most definite injunctions of the Court of Directors, but they might argue that the treaty provided for the protection of the King's person and that the help was sought on the strength of a promise made by Lord Clive.

In the beginning of 1769, there were rumours of another invasion by Ahmad Shah Abdali. But the news proved to be false and in view of the new treaty with Shujaud-Daula, the Select Committee could no longer keep the third brigade at Allahabad. Those troops were at last withdrawn from Allahabad but a magazine and a battalion of sepoys were retained under a field officer. The Select Committee, however, assured the Court of Directors that the magazine would be brought to Bihar as soon as possible. The Nawab Vazir wanted the British to evacuate the fort of Chunar also which they agreed to do in the near future.

With Janoji of Nagpur negotiations were going on throughout the period for the acquisition of Orissa as it would strengthen both the Bengal and Madras presidencies by establishing a compact block of British territories. The Court, however, took strong exception to the proposed treaty (13 September 1768) which stipulated that the English forces would join Janoji whenever required to assist him offensively and defensively. This violated the fundamental principle of the Court's foreign policy that no treaty was to be concluded that immediately or eventually engaged the Company in any disputes. Further, the treaty provided for the payment of a large sum of money to Janoji as arrears of Bengal chouth. Negotiations with Janoji had, however, to be suspended on account of his war with Peshwa Madhav Rao.

Thus it is clear that the Court of Directors had good reasons to be dissatisfied with the foreign policy of the Select Committee. Throughout the period (1767-69) the Select Committee tried to follow its own line and showed itself very unwilling to be governed by the principles of the foreign policy as laid down by the Court of Directors. The dissatisfaction of the Court is very clearly voiced in the Instructions to the Commissioners in the first ten paragraphs of which the Court explained in as concrete a manner as possible the principles of foreign policy that it wanted to be pursued in India.

In the letters dated 25 April 1769 (paras 20-25), 30 September 1769 (para 46) and 23 November 1769 (paras 8-10) we have some indication of the approaching famine of 1770.

Famine of 1770 This famine has been described by Hunter as the "key to the history of B ngal during the succeeding forty years" (*Rural Bengal*, p. 19). Early in 1769 the Presidency of Madras suffering from a scarcity sent a pressing application for a supply of grain from Bengal. The Council ordered the bakhshi to send two cargoes of rice in two ships. But the bakhshi protested that there was not enough rice in stock to provide two cargoes. One ship was therefore sent to Madras with rice but it was lost. The next indication of the approaching famine given to the Court of Directors was in the reference made by the Council to the representation of Becher and Rumbold that there was an unusual scarcity of grain and it was likely that there would be a fall in the land revenue collection. In the letter of 23 November 1769 the Court was to a certain extent informed of the gravity of the situation and the very serious prospect of universal distress for want of grain. This letter, preserved in the Imperial Record Department, is signed by President Verelst along with others and Hunter is wrong in his statement that the letter does not bear his signature. The letter assured the Court of Directors that in view of the threatening famine a stock of grain sufficient for the army would be laid. But an absence of policy to relieve the situation is clearly indicated in the sentence, "We cannot flatter ourselves that all our endeavours will prevent very fatal effects being felt or that human means can check its baneful influence." Faced with the appalling famine the like of which, in their language, the oldest inhabitants could not remember, the governing part of the servants of the East India Company could only make "a just plea for a proportional abatement from the demands of the Government". Even when due allowance is made for want of experience and skill and the defects of double government, what strikes a reader of these paragraphs is that the East India Company's service, as guided by the Court of Directors, was at this stage only a fountain of misgovernment. Engaged mainly if not solely in money making, it had neither the ability nor the requisite humanitarian outlook that would have enabled it to face such a crisis. The famine of 1770 stands "an appalling spectre on the threshold of British rule in India".



# LETTERS FROM COURT



I

LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1767

*Bills of exchange allowed to owners of freighted ships—  
necessary instructions.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By the Ships Calcutta, Triton and Houghton we transmitted you a short Letter dated the 19th of last month serving to cover Invoice and Bill of Lading of the First named Ship, consigned directly to Fort William, to give an Account of the state of the Company's Affairs before Parliament and to advise the particulars of the Draught[s] passed on you by those Ships amounting to Current Rupees 22,800.

2. The Triton and Houghton were consigned to Fort St. George, from whence their Advices will be conveyed to you by the first opportunities as those Ships are required to pursue their future destination to Canton with all possible dispatch the Triton sailed on her Voyage from the Downes the 22th of last month and the Calcutta and Houghton the 31st following.

3. This Letter as the Norfolk has no Consignments on board for Fort St. George is forwarded to you directly by that Ship, for the particulars of the Cargo designed for the Service of our Presidency of Fort William, you are referred to the Invoice and Bill of Lading enclosed in the said Ship's Packet.

4. As the Norfolk is appointed to touch at Madeira to receive from Messrs. Chambers and Company's House 75 Pipes being a Moiety of the Wines ordered for Bengal this season, they have our positive directions to give that Service all the dispatch in their power, their advices and the Account they are to forward with them will acquaint you with [the?] particulars of that Consignment and as to your future proceedings in relation thereto as well as the 75 Pipes [.....] carries you will observe what is said on the Subject in our Letter of the 21st November last.

5. For the Reasons our last gave, we are still under the necessity of postponing our particular Observations on your Letters and Records before us, which remain wholly or partially replied to, and

must upon the same account defer our Sentiment thereon until the dispatch of the latter Ships for the Coast and Bay

6 Having in our former Letters of this Season taken notice of the necessity of opening and enlarging every chan[nel] thro' which we may avail ourselves of the produce of our Acquisitions and Profits in Trade, we have come to a further Resolution of allowing the Owners of our Freightd Ships instead of their sending out the Money they are permitted by Charterparty to carry out in Specie as their Ships Stock to [ ] the Amount into our Treasury here, for which we are to give them Bills of Exchange upon the respective Presidencies to which the Ships are Consigned upon the same terms and Conditions as other Bills of Exchange vizt payt at 30 days sight at the following Rates viz

Bills on Fort William Presidency at Two Shillings and one Penny for the Current Rupee

On Fort St George Presidency at Seven Shillings and three pence for the Current Pagoda

On Bombay Presidency at Two Shillings and three pence for the Bombay Presidency

All which Bills will be signed by our Secretary from time to time in the same manner as you have been already advised other Bills are

7 We have accordingly now drawn upon you as follows vizt

1 Sett for Current Rupees five thousand seven hundred and sixty paya to Richard Crab Esqr one of the Charterparty Owners of the Ship Norfolk in full for Pounds Sterling six hundred rec d of Richd Crabb Esqr dated 2nd January 1767	} Cur Rups 5760 £600

8 As Bills on the abovementioned Account will be in duplicate, that is to say a sett is to consist of a First and Second Bill of the same tenor and date, upon your paying one of them you are to give Advice thereof to such other Presidency or Presidencies as the Ship may proceed to before she leaves India, to prevent any mistake by paying any more than one Bill

9 On the other hand if the Commanders of any of the Companys Ships shall happen by accident or otherways not to take up the money at the Presidency their Ships are Consigned to, in such case the Bills are to be paid at any other of our Presidencies at which they shall arrive, but then instead of the rates they are

drawn at, as mentioned in the said Bills they are to be paid agreeable to the Rates at which other Bills are made payable at such Presidencies.

10. You are to keep us constantly advised of all Transactions relative to the said Bills, and you are to give the necessary advices from time to time to our other Presidencies who on their part have directions to do the like with respect to what passes there.

11. For the before mentioned Reasons and in order to encourage the Owners to give Instructions and directions to the Commanders of their respective Ships to take up such money as they may want for their ships use in India of the Company rather than of Private Persons we have also determined that such money so to be advanced be at the same rates as the Bills of Exchange granted to our Covenant Servts. vizt. at Bengal at Two Shillings and three pence the Current Rupee, at [.....] St. George at Seven Shillings and eight pence the Current Pagoda at Bombay at two Shillings and five pence the Bombay Rupee. O[.....] which upon the return of the respective Ships to England we shall instead of the stipulated advance in Charterparty of 20 P Cent [.....] no more than 10 P Cent.

12. You are accordingly to give notice to the several Commanders who shall be at your Presidency of our said Determination, and such Money as you shall in consequence thereof Advance, you are to take Receipts of the respective Commanders of the same tenor date in Triplicate, one of which to be forwarded by the Ship for which such advance was made and the other two by different Conveyances, and you are to give us an account in your General Letters from time to time of all monies so advanced that we may charge the same upon the Owners here as part of payment for what shall be due to them from the Company [on] account of the Ships Earnings.

13. We are now to advise you that in consequence of the Resolution mentioned in our General Letter of the 21st November last we have drawn upon you by the Norfolk the following [Setts] of Bills of Exchange at the rate of two Shillings and one Penny for the Current Rupee and at Thirty days sight.

One Sett for Current Rupees One Thousand four hundred and forty payable to Richard Becher Esqr. on account of Mr. John Fletcher Brown in full for Pounds Sterling one hundred and fifty rec'd of George Bryan dated the 3d January 1767	}	C Rups. 1,440    £150
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One Sett for Current Rupees one thousand nine hundred and twenty payable to Mr. George Godefridus Draycott in full for Pounds Sterling two hundred rec'd of George Dudley Esqr. dated the 7th Janry. 1767.	}	C Rupees. 1920    £200
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We are

Your loving Friends

Geo. Dudley/Thos. Rous/Cha. Cutts/John Harrison/Fredk.  
Pigou/J. Creswicke/F. W. Barrington/John Roberts/Jos.  
Dupré/Charles Chambers/W. Cruttenden/J. Pardoe/Peter  
Ducane Junr./Geo. Wombwell/George Cuming/J. Purling/  
Thos. Saunders/Rob. Jones.

London, 7th January 1767.

## 2

### LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1767

*Shipping news*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last Letter under date of the 7 instant was dispatched to you the following day by the Ship Norfolk by the way of Madeira which still remains in the Downes.

2. By the Egmont consigned directly to Fort William you will receive this with duplicate of our abovementioned Letter of the 7th instant.

3. The goods and Merchandize laden on the Egmont being designed entirely for your Presidency, the accompanying Invoice and Bill of Lading will make you fully acquainted with the particulars thereof; as you will also by the enclosed List of the number and

description of the Men enlisted for recruiting our Forces on the Bengal Establishment.

4. By the remaining Ships Northington, Admiral Pocock and Earl of Elgin to be dispatched next month, you will be informed of our further Sentiments and Directions on our Affairs under your management.

5. We have the pleasure of informing you that the Ponsborne arrived in the Downes on the 24th inst. after a very tedious Passage owing to her late dispatch.

We are  
Your Loving Friends

Geo. Dudley/ Thos. Rous/Rob. Jones/Heny. Savage/Fredk.  
Pigou/Peter Ducane Junr./J. Purling/George Wombwell/  
John Harrison/Edwd. Wheler/John Roberts/J. Creswicke/  
Luke Scrafton/W. Cruttenden/George Cuming/John  
Stephenson/Jos. Dupré/Charles Chambers/F. W. Barrington/Thos. Saunders.

London 28 Janry. 1767.

### 3

#### LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1767

*Court's concern for bad service tradition—the Council directed to establish a set of sumptuary regulations—the limit of British commercial privilege to remain as determined by the Firman of Farrukhsiyar—Shah Alam not to be escorted by the British to Delhi.*

OUR President & Select Committee at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote you last under date of the 21st November by the Ships Hector, Lord Holland, & Latham.

2. Since that date we have received your Letter of the 24th

March last by the Admiral Watson and your proceedings came to our hands by the Ponsborne, Upon which we shall give you such further directions and observations as appear necessary.

3 We are very glad to find the more discreet part of our servants are beginning to be sensible of the propriety of your determined Resolution to Establish a due subordination and a proper sense of duty in the Juniors The turbulent factious conduct of these Young men is of so alarming a nature that we are determined to quell it And if they cannot be brought to a sense of their duty, they are unworthy our service and must not be suffered to continue in India In Our advices of the 21st November last we were very full and explicit on this subject, and we must insist on your exerting the powers vested in you with the same zeal and firmness you have hitherto shewn and that you do make some examples of the most refractory by dismissing them Our service and sending them to Europe by the Shipping which bring the answer to these advices

4 There is something so subversive of all order and good Government in such young Men making themselves judges of the Conduct of their superiors and their combination to insult them is of so atrocious a nature, so hurtful to the reputation of our Government in the eyes of the Natives, and should the same factious spirit spread itself to the Army the consequences to be apprehended so fatal, that we think the Existence of the Company almost depends on your exerting your Authority on this occasion We wrote you in our last the affairs of the Company were likely to undergo a Parliamentary enquiry, it has now taken place and we must inform you that one of the principal motives urged for that enquiry in the Course of the Debates in the House of Commons, was the rapacious, oppressive, and disobedient conduct of Our servants

5 The representations you make to us of the state of our service from the want of years and experience in those by whom such great affairs are to be conducted demands our most serious attention We are concerned to remark the manner in which the Presidency is abandoned whenever an opportunity offers of going to a subordinate by which very important and lucrative offices have been held by young writers by which they have acquired money before they had discretion to manage it, and of which they have dissipated as hastily as youthful follies and extravagance have got notions of independency inconsistent with their Rank and years and incompatible with Good Government Great as the evil is we see little prospect of a remedy Many of the senior Merchants [in our Councils?] are but of seven years standing in the service, of these some have made themselves conspicuous in all the oppressions which were practised in conducting the private Trade—others are

so deficient in abilities that we cannot hope for any service from them if they do rise to Council so that there are only ten Junior Merchants and Ten young Factors to fill all the important offices under the Council and to conduct our affairs at all the subordinates.— Besides the inexperience consequent to their time of life the young servants now on the Bengal Establishment have had the misfortune to be bred up under superiors who have set them the most fatal examples of corruption Licentiousness and total want of Public spirit and their late combination to treat with disrespect men so far their superiors in Rank, in years, and experience, betrays so much rashness and want of Judgment that we cannot look forward without anxiety.

6. We cannot but take notice that the good of the Service is made to give way to the conveniency of the servants in the great number of Servants employed at the Subordinates, as far as may be done consistent with the necessity of providing the investments and we now recommend it to you to reduce the number of the Servants at the subordinates particularly of the Council which at some of them is actually more than the sitting members at the Presidency.

7. The want of subordination and the inattention to Our interest are not the only evils that require redress—We apprehend there must be a total change of manners in the settlement before we can expect a rising set of valuable servants. The luxury and extravagance that prevails, must give way to simplicity and economy. We have from time to time given you many salutary regulations on this head which a reference back to our orders in former years will point out to you; the necessity of giving a check to the present prodigality requires those orders should be strongly enforced—very little attention has hitherto been paid to them but as you yourselves seem now so thoroughly sensible of the necessity of giving a check to the present prodigality we direct you to establish a set of sumptuary regulations—such as you shall think best adapted to attain the end, of which you who are on the spot must be better judges than we who have these things from Report only. When you have established them we depend on your authority and example to enforce a proper obedience to them.

8. We cannot yield to your remonstrance on the high price of Wages, Provisions and House Rent; for if Rice which is the standard to judge by bears nearly the same price it did many years ago, wages and provisions ought to keep the same proportion—if Rice bears a higher price an importation from the cheaper parts of the Country will reduce it, and with respect to the extra-

vagant price of House Rent we apprehend that must be considerably reduced when the buildings in the new Fort are finished

9 We much approve your having established a committee to investigate the Conduct of the several offices Civil and Military, and to establish proper regulations for the conducting the several branches of our Affairs We hope they will answer the end, and that we shall see our Offices in Bengal conducted with the same method and regularity as they have always been at Fort St George and we expect that you will have entirely dismissed all black writers<sup>1</sup>—and that none but Covenanted servants remain employed at our offices

10 We very much approve the firmness of your conduct in reducing the Batta to the Military We trust to your prudence to regulate it in such a manner as on one hand to give no just ground for murmuring and on the other hand firmly to maintain what you think it is their duty to conform to We expect you shall advise us if the officers of the first Brigade proceeded further than presenting their Memorial and that you give Us the most exact information if any of them should have distinguished themselves by an opposition to your orders

11 In our Letter of the 21st November last we expressed Our Apprehensions at the Continuance of Colonel Smith's Brigade at Illahabad, we rely on your firmly adhering to your resolution not to suffer any of Our Troops to join the King in his projected expedition to Delhi We would have you punctual in your payment of the Twenty Six Lacks the payment of which is the only stipulation on our part but we cannot hazard our existence in suffering our Troops to accompany him to Delhi, where it would be next to impossible to support them

12 We assure ourselves of great advantages from Lord Clive's visiting the Provinces, we are persuaded his Lordship will have established so good an opinion of Our Government as will give great permanency to Our affairs and efface those bad impressions the conduct of our servants for some years past may have made on the minds of the people

13 We are very much pleased to find Sir Robt Barkers Conduct answers the opinion we have always entertained of him We hope the reduction of the Bettiah Country<sup>2</sup> will add to the Revenues and furnish the means for extending Our Investment

14 Although Lord Clive and the Committee have ever since their arrival been so strenuous in their endeavours to correct the many abuses committed by Our servants over the Natives we are

sorry to see by Mahomed Reza Cawn's complaint entered on your proceedings of 19th February that the multiplicity of the English Gomastahs their oppressive practice of Burjaut<sup>3</sup> and the protection they give to the Government's people are still so universal.

15. Our servants seem to entertain the idea that our successes and our influence in the Country have for object the increase and protection of their Trade, this idea must be eradicated and they must be taught that the Phirmaund obtained from Furruckseer is still the boundary of our Commercial privileges. The indulgence to our servants of trade under that Firmaund must be confined to articles of Export and Import, as expressed in the 16th Para of Our Letter of the 24th December 1765 to which we expect the most implicit obedience and we must further add that you transmit us yearly a copy of the Register of the Dusticks granted from the Presidency and from all the subordinates.

16. We very much applaud your firmness in resisting the King's pressing solicitations to Escort him to Delhi, and the discouragement you give him to all connection with the Mahrattas. We flatter ourselves the execution of his purpose will be delayed until the setting in of the rains prevents it and then new incidents may arise which may either promise success to his Majesty or entirely divert him from his Expedition to Delhi.

17. We are very much pleased to observe the great attention you pay to the preventing a scarcity of Silver. We hope the method you propose of Establishing a Gold currency will answer the end: though it does not appear to Us from whence that gold is to be supplied as the returns from Foreign parts for Bengal Commodities are mostly in Silver.

We are

Your Loving Friends

Edward Wheler/Jos. Dupré/Chas. Cutts/Luke Scrafton/E. H.  
Cruttenden/John Roberts/J. Pardoe/Heny Savage/J.  
Purling/Robt. Jones/Geo. Wombwell/Geo. Dudley/Jno.  
Harrison/F. W. Barrington/J. Creswicke/Thos. Rous/Fredk.  
Pigou/Peter Ducane Jr./Chas. Chambers/George Cuming.

London 4th March 1767.

## LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1767

*Abstract of expenses for 1765 confounds the Court—British foreign policy to aim at maintaining the tranquillity of Bengal—Clive requested to continue another year*

TO The Right Hon'ble Lord Clive, etc etc

My Lord,

1 By the Admiral Watson we received your Lordship's Letter of the 20th March last

2 The abstract which Your Lordship has transmitted us Pr Ponsborne of the Expences for the year 1765, carries with it the strongest proofs of the abuses committed in every branch of Our business, and amply justifies your Lordship's Sentiments in a former letter that in the Train our affairs at Bengal were carried on, the settlement could not possibly have long existed. Indeed without the great receipts from the Dewannee, the Company must have been very considerable sufferers this year by being disappointed of a great part of the Investment most of the Money collected as well as the sums borrowed were we observe applied towards carrying on the War, and their remained no resources but such as the wealth of Our servants might afford in return for Bills on Us which we could not conveniently have paid had the sum been very large. The amount of the Expences for 1765 so far surpasses every idea we had conceived of it that we are amazed, but hope your Lordship will be able to reduce them within the compass you have flattered yourself

3 Firmly persuaded as we are that every step beyond the Caramassas, except in a defensive War will lead to the irretrievable ruin of Our affairs. It is with great pleasure we observe your strong opposition to every measure that tends to the marching our Troops with the King to Delhi

4 We are much pleased to see that the obtaining the execution of the Treaty from Shujah Dowla is one of the objects of your Lordship's and General Carnac's expedition to the northward. We are anxious to have this measure effected that the Brigade at

Illahabad may be recalled, and the Powers of Indostan convinced we have no further object than to maintain the tranquillity of the Bengal Province.

5. We read with extreme regret your Lordship's intentions to leave Bengal the ensuing season, the more so as an infirm state of health, and the disagreeable circumstances that have attended your administration are the occasions of it. We do not wonder that the difficulties you had to encounter from the interested opposition of almost the whole Body of our servants should have impaired your health, but we observe with pleasure your Public spirited measures meet with no further opposition from the Council since the Madras Gentlemen have taken their seats at the Board. We hope this will relieve your Lordship from your extreme application and promote your recovery. We assure ourselves too it will be some pleasure to you to see that your conduct has had our approbation and firmest support. We can add nothing that will more strongly shew the sense we entertain of it and of your services than to repeat Our Earnest Request that you will continue another year in the Government, to perfect the plan your Lordship has so judiciously formed and prosecuted with so much zeal and spirit. Your Lordship will excuse our pressing this point so earnestly when we assure you how essential we deem it to the permanency of Our Affairs. We need not point out how much yet remain to attain that end. The Military seem hardly yet reconciled to that system of economy within which it is plain no Revenue could suffice for the growing expences of the Army.—And the Civil servants are far from entertaining those ideas either of their duty to the Company or their situation with respect to the Country Governments which are absolutely and indispensably necessary to that good order without which no Government can long subsist. They still seem to entertain a notion that the advantages in their private Trade are to keep pace with our influence in the Government, that in virtue of Our indulgence to them to trade under Our protection they are entitled to trade in all articles which are not the object of the Company's Commerce; and that when their particular interests come in competition with that of the Country Merchants or of the Country Government, the Merchants are to be oppressed and the Revenue annihilated in support of what they call a Free Trade.—We repeat My Lord until these principles are totally eradicated we shall always dread the return of that anarchy in which the Country was involved by those jarring claims.—We have expressed in Our letter to the Committee that we still deem the Firmaland of Furruckseer the boundary of our commercial Privileges.—We have never countenanced any other pretensions. The young Servants growing up under such bad examples leave us reason to believe that nothing but your



Lordships strong injunctions can restrain them from a point in which their profit runs so counter to their duty.

We are  
My Lord

Your Lordship's Loving Friends

Edward Wheler/Jos. Dupré/Chas. Cutts/Luke Scrafton/E. H. Cruttenden/Jno. Roberts/J. Pardoe/Heny. Savage/Robt. Jones/J. Purling/Geo. Wombwell/Geo. Dudley/Jno. Harrison/F. W. Barrington/J. Creswicke/Thos. Rous/Fredk. Pigou/Peter Ducane Jr./Chas. Chambers/George Cuming.

4th March 1767.

## 5

### LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1767

*Court welcomes prospect of increase of investment, particularly in raw-silk, but alarmed to find the cargoes of the French and the Dutch more valuable—an immediate enquiry ordered but maintenance of good relations with these companies recommended—suspension or dismissal of Bolts ordered—shirkers among Company's servants to be dismissed—sumptuary regulations for writers.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last General Letter was dated the 21st of November which with a Letter to the Select Committee of the same date have been already sent in Triplicate by the Ships Hector, Lord Holland and Latham.

2. On the 24th of the same Month Our Secretary informed You by a short Letter of the Arrival of the Admiral Watson at Plymouth, from whence she did not get to her Moorings in the Thames until the 25th of December. By this Ship We received your Letter of the 24th of March also one of the same date from the

Select Committee and one from Lord Clive of the 20th of that month.

3. The Harcourt from Bombay which sailed from St. Helena 26th of September with the Admiral Watson did not reach the Downes until the 18th of December.

4. The Ponsborne arrived in the Downes on the 24th of January after a very tedious Voyage, owing to the very late dispatch from your Presidency, which We cannot avoid mentioning, that your Attention should be exerted to prevent such Disappointments in future, By this Ship, We received the Originals of the several Letters &c. of which the Admiral Watson brought Duplicate as likewise the Book Packet.

5. In addition to our beforementioned Advices We sent you a short Letter under date of the 19th of December by the Calcutta, Transcripts whereof went by the Ships Triton and Houghton to Fort St. George from whence they will be forwarded by the President and Council.

6. Also a Short Letter dated the 7th January which [was] sent by the Ships Norfolk and Egmont and Triplicate thereof now goes to you, and We wrote you further under date of the 28th of that month by the Egmont, Duplicate and Triplicate whereof are now also sent.

7. Having in Our Letters of the 17th of May last, by the Mercury and those mentioned above, given you our Sentiments and directions upon the Affairs of your presidency as fully as We were then able to do, We shall now principally take up what has occurred upon our perusal of your Advices by the Admiral Watson, We mean such parts as it may be necessary to remark upon, To which We add such further directions upon Points which have arisen since our last Advices, as are material for your Information.

8. We now do the like with respect to Such Affairs as fall under the department of Our Select Committee at Fort William in a Separate Letter under the same date as this.

#### *First of Shipping.*

9. The liberty which has for some time past been given to the Commanders of Our Shipping to carry out small Arms to be applied to the purchase of Provisions [.....] the course of their Voyage, and if not so disposed of, to be delivered to the respective Presidencies the Ships were consigned to, is discontinued; and the Shipping of them in Private Trade forbid. If therefore any of Our Ships shall

hereafter have any such on board, exclusive of the necessary proportion for the Ship's use, they are to be deemed Contraband Articles and as such to be Seized and Confiscated to Us in the same manner as we have directed with respect to all other Illegal Trade.

10 We are always ready to afford Relief to any of Our Servants in whatsoever Stations they are, when We are satisfied it is really necessary, as well for such Servants, as the Service in general, and as you assure us, you are fully sensible That the Pilots Masters and Mates in the Marine could not support themselves and Families on their Stipends by reason of the encreased Price of every Article of Expence, particularly That of House Rent, We do on these considerations acquiesce with your encreasing their Allowances, At the same time you must be extremely cautious of making any innovations in the usual Allowances in the several Departments without an evident necessity for so doing

11 With respect to the Master Attendant's Representation of the Difficulties and Impediments he meets with in carrying in on the Business of the Marine Yard from the small Wages the Artificers employed therein receive, compared with what is paid at the New Fort and other Offices, This matter We find lay for your consideration, and as you assure us you shall settle it on the most reasonable footing, We shall expect to be informed, That you have made no greater Allowances than as before observed with respect to Pilots Masters &c are really necessary both for the good of the Service, and the [Relief] of the said Artificers.

12 Your compliance with the Request of the Commanders of Our Europe Ships for interposing your authority for their searching Country Vessels for Sailors Deserted from their respective Ships, is so necessary a measure, That We cannot but highly approve of, and recommend it to your constant attention and observance

13 The Dismission of an Officer belonging to an(?) of Our Europe Ships is a measure wherein the utmost caution must at all times be used, and Prejudices and Resentment must have no Place in Complaints against [them] We observe you took much Pains in enquiring into the reasons which induced Captain Inglis of the Asia to discharge his Chief Mate Mr. Hammond, and altho' upon a Perusal of your Proceedings we are not entirely clear, that there was not some Pique of the Captain's in the Case, Yet as upon the whole the people

were greatly discontented at his general Ill treatment of them, and it appearing he encouraged the Seamen in their Objections to go upon the Malwan<sup>1</sup> Expedition when ordered on that Service by the President and Council of Bombay; We think you could not do otherwise, than confirm the Captain's Dismission of him however We shall be better Masters of the Case when Capt. Inglis and Mr. Hammond come to England.

14. We do not see how We can interpose in limiting the Commanders and Officers of our Europe Ship to the Prices of the Necessaries they import in Private Trade as it is very material for them to sell their Goods to the highest Bidder, however your Endeavour to reduce the exorbitant Prices was right, and if the Inhabitants would have conformed to your Regulations, this Hardship might have been in some Measure remedied.—We would not have you discouraged, and we hope to hear you have met with better Success in another Attempt, by getting the better of the self-interested Views of the Monopolizers of those European Necessaries. And if any of Our Commanders or Officers are very exorbitant in their Demands, point them out to us, that we may take the proper Notice of them upon their Return.

15. With respect to your Complaint of the exorbitant Demands made by the Captains for Passengers to Europe, We have had the same Complaints from the President and Council at Fort St. George, and we can only inform you, as we did them, That upon a proper Representation we shall certainly resent such usage in any of our Captains, and to enable us to do so with propriety when any such Circumstances fall under your Cognizance, you should state the case to us.—A more precise Remedy we know not how to apply, for we have not by Charterparty any Power to oblige a Captain to furnish Fresh Provisions homeward bound nevertheless as it has in all times been the usage for them so to do, and the Sum usually paid by a Factor or Writer going abroad is Fifty Pounds including Ten Pounds for the Owners, and any Captain refusing to furnish Fresh Provisions only for that Sum would fall under our displeasure; So in returning a reasonable and equitable sum is to be allowed as a sufficient recompence, but it is not our intention hereby to restrain any whose Circumstances may well afford it, from giving a larger consideration, especially if they want more than the usual accommodations aboard.

16. We have inserted in the Instructions to the several Commanders now going out the necessary Orders accordingly, as you will perceive by the Copy of the Additional Paragraph, herewith

sent, made to their Instructions since We sent you Copies thereof by the Ship Hector and Lord Holland, and as we intend these Orders to be as extensive as possible, You are to communicate them to all the other Commanders of our returning Shipping in India, and acquaint them that they pay all due obedience to the same.

17 We would have you send us Musters of the Furr or Pine Spars you mention to have been discovered in the Morung Country,<sup>2</sup>

Ire from 21th Mar that we may have the Opinion of proper  
1766 Para 89 Consa Judges here upon them, in the mean time  
2nd Sept 9th Sept agreeable to the directions in our former  
16th Oct Letter this season You will cause all the necessary  
Trials to be made of them in Bengal, in order that they may be  
brought into use, if they are found fit for the Purpose, And  
here with satisfaction we observe the Rule you have made (in  
order to prevent the Exaction of Individuals) to obtain Mater[ials]  
from the Country Government at Maulda at the First Cost, A Rule  
we would have extended in all other Instances and Places as far  
as practicable

18 We have already in Our Letters of the 17th of May and 21st of November 1st, remarked upon the very great Expence the

Paras 9 & 30 Company were put to for the Purchase of the  
Admiral Steevens and the heavy loss by the  
Sale of that Ship here, Your then Master Attendant Mr Scott  
reported she was in good condition, so far as could be seen, and  
that he Estimated her value at between Fifty Seven and Sixty  
thousand Arcot Rupees, but as you were  
Consns 3d July acquainted in the last of our said Letters  
1765 she sold but for Nine hundred and fifty

Pounds with all her Stores, Guns and Kintlage excepted, We  
think it impossible there should be so remarkable a difference  
without some great Oversight or Neglect in the Master Attendant  
We make this Additional Remark, That you may have a constant  
attention to the strict and regular discharge of That important  
Branch of Our Affairs, and see that the Master Attendant and all  
the people in That department do their Duty with Fidelity, Care  
and Diligence The Master Attendant's Report is very deficient to  
say that the Ship was found in very good condition so far as could  
be seen is negligent to a great degree, as she ought to have been  
stripped and thoroughly Examined not only by the Master Attendant  
but by his Assistant and some others in the Marine department,  
and You ought not to have receiv'd a report of a Survey so very  
imperfect.

*Secondly of Goods From Europe or From One Part of  
India to Another*

19. Altho we very much approve your exerting your influence over the Provinces to encrease the Sale of Our Woollens, yet we are not quite clear as to the propriety of your intentions of holding the Poonah at Fort William We apprehend it would be in a manner removing the Capital of the Province from Muxadabad to Calcutta, an innovation which in the light We now see it, we can by no means approve, for even blended as Our Commerce and Revenues [.....] We mean to preserve the Distinctions in the Forms entire, and that Fort William be the Seat of Commerce, and the administration of Justice at Muxadabad, or at such Place where the Nabob's Ministers reside, a Reference to our former Letters will sufficiently point out the spirit of our Intention on this head.—These are our present thoughts, and We recommend them to be well considered before you come to a final Resolution upon such an important Subject.

Lre from 24th Mar.  
1766 Para 23 Consns.  
13th Decr.

*Thirdly of Investments*

20. In Our Letter of the 21st of November We most strenuously recommended for the reasons therein mentioned the encreasing the Investment at your Presidency to as large an amount as you possibly can. It is a great Satisfaction to us therefore to find by your Letter of the 24th of March that there are hopes of Our Expectations being in a great measure answered, by the early Advances that have been made, Your influence in the Country, and the strict Orders you had given for encreasing the Provision of Raw Silk, We are only to add that the greater the extent of your Investment is, the Company will be in the same Degree benefitted provided it can be done as before observed in our said Letter, without taking such Goods as are unfit for the Europe Market.

Paras. 40 & 43.

21. With respect to the variation in the Price of the several Parcels of Raw Silk received from Cossimbuzar at different times, We should rather have them Invoiced to us at such various Prices than have all the Silk of the season thrown into an Average Price, as you have given Directions for, that We may judge how the Qualities and Prices correspond, but at the same time, you are to send us your Sentiments upon, and Reasons for such variations, in the most explicit manner for our better information.

Lre from 24th Mar.  
1766 Para. 45 Con-  
sulta. 24th Octr.

22. It is with pleasure We take notice of the remark you make,

that the Malda Provision of Goods under the direction of Mr Barwell has turned out extremely good, and that his conduct in this Branch has been much to your satisfaction, Amidst the general Inattention to Business which has been too prevalent among the greater part of Our Servants at your Presidency, this Testimony of good Behaviour is very pleasing to us, and as a mark of our approbation, We recommend it to you to give him encouragement in any way that may be use of to him and service to the Company

23 As Mr. De la Porte by his Knowledge and Assiduity in the Branch of the Investment he has been employed in, has given you the greatest satisfaction, We agree with you that he may do the Company good Service and be most useful at Calcutta to examine the Bales as they are received from the different Factories and Aurungs We therefore approve of your fixing him at the Presidency for that purpose, As We do also of your making an Addition of One hundred Rupees a Month to the Salary of Three hundred Pounds a Year we settled upon him which We learn from you has been insufficient for his Maintenance, presuming That to be really the Case, and in confidence that Mr De la Porte will continue by his good Behaviour to merit This favour, we have the more readily acquiesced, At the same time We must caution You against making any extraordinary allowances without previously having our leave

24. In Our Letter of the 21st of November last Paragraph 86 We took Notice that the Cargos of the French and Dutch Ships lately arrived from Bengal seemed to appear much more valuable than ours, owing to the large proportion of Fine Goods in them, We are now not only well assured That this is a Fact, but likewise We have good reason to believe, Some of the Company's Servants, Free Merchants and others residing under Our License, have even provided those Cargos to the great Prejudice of this Company, and contrary to the duty they owe to their Masters and protectors, You are therefore hereby directed to make an immediate and strict enquiry into this Affair, and if you find any Person guilty of what is mentioned, if our own Servants, they are to be dismissed from the Service, and if any others our Protection is to be withdrawn from them, and all the European concerned in such Mal Practices to be sent to England by the first Conveyances that offer

*Fourthly Concerning the Country Governmts European Powers and the Trade of India*

25 We observe what you mention with respect to the Dutch that when you were engaged in the War with Cossim Aly Cawn

in 1763 and applied to them to collect in the Salt Petre belonging to theirs and Our Factories and deliver you a proportion, they were little disposed to give you any Assistance therein. That at the same time they had taken the Advantage of the troubles to impede Your Provision of Ophium, Notwithstanding this unfriendly usage when they have it in their Power, It is with pleasure We see you act upon more generous Principles for instance in obliging Captain Waple to make a suitable acknowledgment for an Insult offered to their Chief at Chinsura—And supplying them with the proportion of one third part of all the Cutcha Petre last Season, surely these friendly offices should convince them, that it is their Interest to continue on good terms with you, and We hope it will have that Effect.

26. As a good Harmony with the French will be the means of preventing any disagreeable Altercations in point of Trade We do not disapprove of your supplying Mr. Law with 3000 Bags of Salt Petre, as you assure us it could be spared from your own occasions.

27. Your securing the Ship belonging to the King of Pegu which had been shamefully you alledge deserted by her Commander Capt. Gibson and made over by her Noquedah<sup>3</sup> to Mr. Dolben Chief of Ingeram,<sup>4</sup> and your sending her to the King was a very laudable and Political measure, and [will?] as you say most probably induce him not only to release any Ships he may have detained on this Account, but to live in good Harmony with the English in future.—In your next Advices We would have you give us a more circumstantial Account of this Affair, That We may take proper Notice of the said Capt. Gibson, and withdraw our Protection from him, if he has been as culpable as at first sight he seems to be, And likewise how far Mr. Dolben may have been to blame in this Transaction.

28. As we wish you to turn your Attention to the Export and Import Trade, We are willing to give every reasonable encouragement for carrying on the same On this principle, We do not disapprove of your Resolution That no Duties shall be collected except on such Goods as may be imported for Sale in the Settlement, if this measure will answer the Design, however when this Export Trade is established upon a good footing, We recommend it to you to consider of levying again the usual Duties.



29 You have done very well in withdrawing the Chief and Council of Benaris, it never appeared to us in any other Light than that of being the emolument of our Servants, one Servant is certainly sufficient to collect in the remaining Tuncaw's Money on account of the Treaty with Sujah Dowlah, when that is effected, we shall depend upon your having entirely withdrawn the Factory, unless you see a prospect of increasing the Sale of our Woollen or enlarging the investment, but even in those cases no servant must be kept there without the entire approbation of Sujah Dowlah

Do Parag 79 Con  
ulta 24th Feby

#### *Fifthly of Fortifications Buildings and Revenues*

30 If the Scheme You have adopted for preventing the dangerous Encroachments of the River upon the New Fort will answer the purpose it will give us pleasure to hear it has been speedily and effectually carried into execution, at the same time We cannot but lament the original Bad Construction of the Works which has rendered them liable to such a misfortune and the more so when we find You Estimate that the Expence of this Amendment only will amount to so great a Sum as Six Lacks six thousand Rupees and We must here repeat, what We have so often inculcated, that your utmost Care and Attention is required to keep the Expences attending your Fortifications and Works within as reasonable and moderate bounds as the nature of them will admit of

I re from 24th  
March 1766 Parag 60  
Consulta 16th Septr  
9th Decr 21st Decr  
6th January

#### *Sixthly and Seventhly of Covenant and Military Servants and Accounts*

31 Although Mr Marriott's accepting or even soliciting an Office under the Country Government is a violation of Orders and the Rules of our Service, yet in consideration of the general good Character you represent him to bear, We are satisfied for the present at least with your obliging him to refund all the Advantages he made from his renting the Mint at Benaris He ought to look upon this Act of Lenity in such light as to induce him to be more circumspect in future, and shew his gratitude by exerting his utmost endeavours for the good of the Service Until We have had a sufficient experience of Mr Marriott's future conduct, he is not to be taken into the Select Committee on any vacancy without our express leave

I re from 24th  
March 1766 Parag 73  
to 76 Consulta 26th  
Aug 17th Feby

32 We agree with you that the part Mr Bolts had acted at

Benaris as represented in your Letter, is highly deserving of censure, and if his conduct in future is not perfectly to your  
 Lre from 24th Satisfaction. We recommend it to you to  
 March 1766 Paraga. suspend or dismiss him the service as you  
 76 Consulta. 17th shall judge his Behaviour may deserve.  
 Febry.

33. We cannot comply with your application for having Secretaries and Accountants sent out from hence to be fixed down without rising in the Service, as it would be an  
 Do Para. So. innovation We apprehend attended with many inconveniencies, among others, the means of continuing that general inattention to Business which has for some time past too much prevailed among all Ranks of our Servants, particularly the Junior ones, and consequently to shun Offices merely because they are laborious. We know no other good method for filling the Stations of Secretaries and Accountants, than by your appointing such whose Abilities you find fit for those Posts, and by continuing them so long therein until others rise up well Qualified to Succeed them.— If any Persons refuse your Appointment they are not worthy of the Service and must be forthwith dismissed.

34. And here with pleasure we take notice of your recommendation of Mr. Witts for his assiduity and Care in compleating the two last Setts of General Books up to April 1765 We would have you give him all the encouragement his Diligence deserves that he may chearfully discharge the duty of his Place, until as is before observed, some One or more are qualified to Succeed him, By the late arrival of the Ponsborne on which the last Sett of Books are received, We are afraid the necessary remarks cannot be made upon them this Season.

35. Mr. French's absolute refusal to qualify himself for a vacant Seat in the Mayor's Court, under the frivolous pretence of  
 Lre from 24th having been appointed a Member of the  
 March 1766 Paras. Council, tho' deprived of the liberty of acting  
 114, 116. (by your not thinking him a proper Person for such an important Station in the present crisis) is we agree with you a glaring instance of the spirit which too much prevails in the Settlement, and which tends to the subversion of all subordination and Government, you have therefore acted very properly in determining to suspend him from our Service to which he is not to be restored again without very good reasons induce you for Such an Act of lenity, but even in such case he is not to be admitted into Council, nor be the Chief at any Subordinate Settlement without our express leave but remain fixed in his Station of a Senior Merchant.

36. It is with concern and surprize that we hear of the expensive manner in which our young Servants [.....] the friends and relations of many of them complain to us of the large Draughts made on them those who have not such resources we apprehend must run in debt to their Banians, the consequence of which will be that they were never be the free Masters of their own actions, and liable to be tempted to infidelity in the Offices they are trusted with to extricate themselves from the difficulties in which their extravagancies involve them, This makes it an object of importance to us to have the expences of the Young Servants reduced within moderate bounds: and we have therefore thought proper to establish the following regulations, which we will have strictly conformed to.

37. As soon as Apartments can be got ready in the new Fort, the Writers must be Accommodated there and the allowance for House Rent must be struck off and no Writer permitted to reside out of the new Fort without the express permission of the Governour, which must be minuted together with the reasons upon your Proceedings.

38. No Writer shall be allowed to keep a Pallank[een] unless you are fully convinced, that it is absolutely necessary for the preservation of his health.

39. No Writer shall keep more than one Servant besides a Cook.

40. No Writer shall be permitted to keep a Horse without express permission of the Govr. and that only if declared necessary for his [Health].

41. No Writer shall be permitted either for himself or jointly with others to keep a Country House.

42. With respect to Table Liquors we cannot pretend to form regulations for them, but must recommend to the Governour and Council to have a watchful eye over the Junior Servants in this respect, to check those who make themselves conspicuous in extravagance or intemperance.

43. We hear much of the general extravagance in Dress. It is impossible for us to give particular directions on this article of Expencc, which should be relative to rank and fortune, neither of which can entitle the young Servants to figure in it. We must depend on the advice and example our senior Servants give to the Juniors, and that in this as well as in every other article of Luxury or Expencc they conform to that system of Economy we are deter-

mined shall take place, and which ought to be chearfully entered into, as it is so evidently for their own advantage.

44. If any of our Writers refuse or decline to comply with the preceding Regulations or such as you shall establish you are to Suspend him from Our Service and inform us of the particulars and then wait for our directions.

45. Too great care cannot be taken to prevent the abuse of the Dustucks our Servants are indulged with, it is with pleasure

Lre from 24th therefore We see your attention to this very  
March 1766 Paraga. material affair by taking all the means in your  
87. Power punctually to adhere to such Measures  
as may prevent such disputes in future with the Country Govern-  
ment, as have been heretofore with great Justice complained of.

46. Your Master Attendant Capt. Keble's Request to be indulged with the Privilege of a Dustuck is such a deviation from

Lre from 24th the rules of Our Service that we cannot agree  
March 1766 Paraga. to allow it to him as matter of right, however  
88.

We leave it to the Governour and Council for the time being to grant it to him occasionally as they see fit, provided he behaves to Satisfaction and in the use of it keeps strictly within your Regulations.

47. As Our Chaplain Mr. Parry<sup>e</sup> was so imprudent as to Marry Mr Johnstone and Miss Keene without obtaining the President's

Do Para. 92. Consent, or even giving him any previous

intimation according to the established Custom in our Settlements, he therefore very deservedly incurred his Dismission however as Lord Clive interceded for his restoration, We acquiesce in his reinstatement hoping as you do, that this Example and our Sense of Mr Parry's Behaviour will be a sufficient warning to prevent the like Practices in future.

48. The friends of the Revd. Mr. John Thomas' one of Our Chaplains at Fort St. George having applied to us for his removal to Bengal upon a Vacancy by the death or otherwise of one of Our Chaplains at your Presidency, We have as well out of regard to the said application, as the merit of Mr Thomas, complied therewith, and We do hereby direct that when such Vacancy happens You give notice thereof by the first opportunity to the President and Council at Fort St. George who have our orders to permit Mr Thomas to proceed accordingly to Bengal by the first proper conveyance that offers, to fill up such vacancy upon your establishment.

49. We expect in your next Letters to see that you have gone

on in the enquiry with respect to Mr Sage's Confining the two Benaris Merchants, If it appears an Act of Oppression for his own Advantage, or attended with any dishonorable Circumstances, We direct you to dismiss him our Service, or if he has taken up the Charge on frivolous grounds that he be severely reprimanded

50 Mr Lambert does not acquit himself of the charge of neglect in suffering the military Paymasters Accounts to run so much behind, entirely to our satisfaction he must exert himself with great diligence in future to efface the bad impression this has given us of him

51 We are very much surprized to find you have again this season disobeyed our positive Orders of the 22nd of February 1764, for sending us annually Lists of Free Merchants and others residing under our protection at your Presidency, we complained of this neglect and enforced those Orders in the strongest manner by our Letter of the 26th of March 1766, and now further direct, that you do not on any account whatsoever omit to pay the most punctual attention thereto

52 We observe what passed upon Capt Macphersons being admitted on your Military Establishment and altho' We would have all proper caution used to prevent giving any real occasion of umbrage to the Corps of Officers, yet on the other hand we agree with you that Remonstrances from the Officers should be discouraged, unless they are founded upon undoubted Hardships In the present case Captain Macpherson acted very properly in submitting to waive his Rank and take a Commission as Youngest which put an end to the Officers dissatisfaction, However it appearing Captain Macpherson came in by purchasing Capt Whichcote Battalion of Seapoys This is a practice that We can by no means admit of And We shall depend upon the Care you assure us shall be taken never to approve or admit of Exchanges upon your Military Officers more particularly when they are the price of Money and not of Services And if in future you find any Officers guilty of such a Practice they are to be forthwith dismissed the Service

53 We are very glad to find you can with good Assurance pronounce that the Appointment of Field Officer and the Division of our Forces into Brigades will make general Mutinies in future almost impracticable and We shall depend upon you and Our Officers for establishing and continuing such a regular and true Military

Lre from 24th  
March 1766 Para 105  
101 Consa 8th April

Discipline that no such Dangerous and disgraceful Crisis may ever again occur as The Mutiny in the year 1764.

54. We are very sorry the Ship Falmouth's tedious passage kept you from the knowledge of our Sentiments on the Treaty made with Mir Jaffir, on his restoration to the Subah-ship, and all the sums demanded of him in consequence We still see the demand for restitution in the same light and direct You to stop all Payment on that account 'till our further Orders which we shall give you when we receive the account of the claims for this restitution. The Commission detain'd from Roydullub on account of the Treaty Money of 1757 must remain as it is 'till the Account is settled in Chancery with the Claimants.

55. We take notice and approve of your not admitting of the Claim made by Mr Claud De la Porte, Administrator to the Estate of Lieut. William Elerson for Rs. 20498—  
 Lre from 24th March 1766 Para. 77. which the Commissary General had refused Payment of. If the ordinary vouchers could have been produced you would have been well justified in discharging the same but as they have not and an amicable Suit has been commenced by Mr De la Porte for his own indemnification against the Company in the Mayor's Court for the recovery of the said sum it must take its course, but we must depend upon your care to the Company defended in the said Suit, as far as is consistent with Justice.

56. It is highly necessary to take every measure to reduce within as moderate bounds as possible, our great Military expences, your resolution therefore to contract with the Surgeons for supplying all the Hospital charges, Bedding Lodging and Europe Medicines excepted, seems to be a very proper method; but we cannot help thinking that your allowing at the rate of eighteen Pence a day P Man is rather too much notwithstanding your allegation that it is six Pence less than is allowed to His Majesty's Hospitals in India, upon the whole it is our meaning, that all Contract should be on a footing of reasonable and equitable terms both for the Company and the Contractor.

57. Your Resolution of not granting Bills of Exchange upon us to any considerable Amount beyond what you drew by the Grenville and Kent was very right for had you exceeded those Draughts to any large Amount it would have been the means of throwing us under the Difficulties which we have emphatically described in Our Letter of the 21st November last, without as you

allege, even answering the ends of preventing the Foreigners being supp[.....] especially as you say, you should be able within the space of Twelve Months to discharge the whole of your Bond Debts, and forbid the receiving any further sums into your Treasury at Interest. If you can confine your Draughts upon us within much narrower Limits than those laid down in Our said Letter of the 21st November you will do us a very acceptable Service.

58. Certain Proofs being wanted for the recovery of an Assurance of Eight hundred Pounds made here by John Cuthbert Esqr. in behalf of Mr William Cuthbert Passenger for Fort St. George on the Tilbury, who proceeded from thence in the month of August 1765 on the Experiment[?] Captain Gray for Bengal as to the loss of the said Vessel in the mouth of the Ganges and for ascertaining the property of the latter on board, We direct you to transmit by the first opportunity the most authentic Proofs in your power of the several Circumstances described in the enclosed Memorial as necessary for the settlement of the matter in question, and if from the defect of sufficient Testimony on your part it may be necessary to have recourse to the presidency of Fort St. George you will apply thither accordingly, as they have the same directions from us to send us the most precise Accounts they can procure for the satisfaction of the parties mentioned in the said Memorial.

#### *Eighthly Concerning the Charter*

59. As to the Collusive Suit you mention to be brought in the Mayor's Court by Coja Mockil against Johanna Mareat with a view to evade the Demands of the Country Government; The Charter empowers the Mayor's Court to entertain Suits between natives if the Defendant does not object to the Jurisdiction and after Judgment the Plaintiff has a right to the common process of the Court for Obtaining Satisfaction against the Defendant's Body or Goods and upon commencing every suit if the Plaintiff makes Oath of his Debt he may hold the Defendant to Bail and in that Case where he is imprisoned for want of Bail or is taken in Execution after Judgment he must remain in Custody as in Ordinary Cases; Where no Suit is depending and parties seek refuge in our Settlements who have defrauded the Country Government, you may on a proper representation withdraw our protection and suffer the Country Powers to apprehend and deal with them according to their own Laws, but We are of Opinion You have no right to banish any Party, plaintiff or Defendant who may be guilty of these Collusions. If there is no Debt really due from the defendant to the Plaintiff, most certainly the Action or Suit is an abuse of the process of the Court, and the Mayor's Court may as the Courts of Law and Equity do

here upon proof of such Collusion imprison the parties, for a Contempt of the Court but we know no Laws that will Justify a Sentence of Banishment in Cases of this Kind.

60. The best method We can advise as a means to prevent these Collusive Suits is that the Mayor's Court [.....] immediately publish a Rule of Practice to this Effect Vizt. that in every case where a Suit is brought in that Court by Indian against Indian wherein the Defendant is held to Bail it shall be fully specified and set forth in the Plaintiff's Affidavit of the Debt, where the same was Contracted the time when, and the Nature of the Debt whether upon Bond, Note or how otherwise and for what consideration actually and bonafide given or paid and in every Case where the Cause of action is not Sworn to arise within the limits of the Settlement the Mayor's Court ought to refuse to issue process for arresting the Defendant.

### *Supplement*

61. We have already very particularly taking notice of the insolent behaviour of our Junior Servants to Lord Clive and the Gentlemen, who came from Fort St. George upon occasion of the latter's being appointed Members of your Council, and which we are sorry to find has been extended to others, who had fortitude enough to persist in their duty to the Company, by not falling in with their unwarrantable behaviour, We mean Messrs. Charles Bentley and Gerard Gustavus du Carrel two of our Writers, the first of whom you inform us from the first disapproved and absolutely refused any ways engaging in their injudicious and disrespectful resolutions and the other upon a Moments reflection, sensible of his imprudence in signing the Memorial we have so often mentioned, withdrew his Name from it, although they thereby subjected themselves to the obloquy and ill treatment of their fellow Servants, We highly approve of the behaviour of these two young Gentlemen, and We recommend it to you to give them such encouragement as may shew our regard for their good Conduct, and at the same time convince those who have used them ill, that, if they continue in their unkind behaviour they will certainly fall under our severest Resentment.

62. On examining the Fine Piece Goods P Ponsborne We find them more Milldewed and fuller of Black Threads than those already complained of for several Years past and also of very bad Colour not being clean washed nor well Bleached, which defects, particular care must be taken to remedy, as they occasion us great inconvenience and expence by being obliged to show every Piece.



63 As the spotted Bandannoe Handkerchief (sic) are much used for the neck they must be made without Borders, the Handkerchiefs now sent not being uniform when folded triangularly is therefore unfit for that purpose and occasions a loss to us at the Sale

64 By our Letters of the 21st of November and 19th December last you were acquainted with the Parliamentary proceedings with respect to the Company's affairs since when by several Orders of the Hon'ble House of Commons, We have laid before them—A Copy of the Charter granted to the Company on the 5th of September in the 10th year of the Reign of King William the Third—An Account of all Sums of Money received by the Company from the Nabobs or Powers of the Country or received in Revenues arising from the Ceded Districts from the year 1753 inclusive to the Grant of Dewannee distinguishing each year—An Account of the Expences incurred by the East India Company on Account of the Wars and Disturbances in the East Indies from 1751 to 1766 both years inclusive distinguish each year—Copies of the Charters granted to the Company in the 13th, 20th and 25th years of the Reign of King Charles the Second, and in the Second year of the Reign of King James the Second—A Copy of the Letter from Nudjum ul Dowla the present Nabob of Bengal to Lord Clive and the Gentlemen of the Select Committee on Lord Clive's arrival in May 1765 A List of Presents received by several Persons from the Nabob and his Ministers according to the Narrative delivered in to the Select Committee in June 1765 by [Mohomed] Reza Khan Copies of all Letters and Correspondence carried on between the Commanders of His Majesty's Land and Sea Forces and the Servants of the Company from the time of the Surrender of Pondicherry to the delivery of the said place into the hands of the Company

65 Besides the abovementioned Papers and Accounts, many others have been laid before the Hon'ble House of Commons from the Several Public offices all relative to the same Subject

66 There have been two or three meetings of the Committee of the Whole House to consider of the State of the Company's Affairs at which there have been many very interesting Debates, but no Resolutions come to, the further consideration thereof being adjourned to the 6th day of this Instant March—One of the Objects of the said Enquiry is the Conduct and Behaviour of the Company's Servants particularly with respect to their Rapacity and Sudden Acquisition of Great Fortunes by unwarrantable means Many other Matters will doubtless arise in the course of the Enquiry of which we can at present have no perfect idea

67 In order to facilitate the Adjustment of matters to the



Najm-ud-Daulah



mutual Advantage of the Public and the Company a Treaty is now on foot between His Majesty's Ministers and the Company, if we can be so happy to come to any reasonable Agreement, we flatter Ourselves with a favorable Issue with respect to the Parliamentary proceedings. It is on this Account that the consideration of the Company's Affairs is adjourned to the 6th instant as before observed.

68. From what we have here informed you, you will see how much We have been and still continue to be engaged and our time engrossed in the most Interesting and Critical situation which the Company have ever been in since it's existence, This has been the unavoidable means of Our not being so full in Our Advices this Season upon the General Affairs of your Presidency as we wished in whatever therefore we have been deficient, We shall depend upon your Zeal and Integrity to make up such Defects with all that attention which is due from Servants who ought always to have the Company's Interest at heart.

69. For these Reasons we are still under the necessity of deferring our thoughts and directions with respect to a Plan for the encouragement of Our Servants, which from the intimations in Our former Letters of this Season you might have some reason to expect by this Conveyance.

70. We acquainted you in Our Letter of the 21st of November, We had filed a Bill in Chancery against Mr John Johnstone to make him account with the Company for the Money he received from the present Nabob and others on his succeeding to the Subahship, contrary to and in breach of the most express Orders of the Company We are now to inform you that we have done the same against Ascanius William Senior, Ralph Leycester, John Burdett and George Gray, besides Mr Johnstone the only persons now in England whose Names stand in the List entered upon the Select Committee's Diary under date of the 6th June 1765 being the List laid before the Hon'ble House of Commons as mentioned in a preceeding Paragraph.

71. The Appeal of Maria de Lor has been determined in her favour against the Company, as appears by the enclosed Copy of his Majesty's Order in Council; The Cause was lost entirely from the mismanagement of it, and the ignorance of those concerned for the Company, for altho' in the Answer of the President and Council to the Original Bill, and in their Rejoinder to the Plaintiff's Replication (which is considered as an Answer to her Amended Bill) it is insisted that Brohier was indebted to the Company in Fifty six thousand two hundred and Sixty four Current Rupees, besides the Twenty thousand Rupees for which they accepted his Bond, conditioned for payment

of one half at the end of one year, and the other half at the end of two years, yet there is not the least Evidence given, or entered into on behalf of the Company to support this demand, except the allegations in their answers which is no Evidence at all, and instead of returning or attaching Brohier's Money paid into the treasury at Bombay towards satisfaction of the above mentioned Debt, it appears plainly, from both Answers of the President and Council, that they put in Suit his said Bond for Twenty thousand Rupees within five days after it was given, altho' one half of it was not payable till the end of Twelve Months, nor the other Moiety until the end of two years and thus, having obtain'd Judgment illegally for a Debt not due, an Attachment is made on the Man's Effects in Bombay, which is the object of the present Dispute, No wonder then that the Lords of the Committee of His Majesty's Privy Council for hearing Appeals should be much more inclined, to suppose the Effects of Brohier, paid into the Company's Treasury at Bombay, the Produce of the Securities assigned by him to Maria De Lor, towards securing to her the money she enabled Carvalho (Brohier's Security) to pay the Company, than to support and Authorize so unprecedent[ed] and illegal a proceeding at Law upon a Bond no part of which was due for twelve Months. If those, who had the management of this Suit, had entered into proof of this Additional Debt of Fifty six thousand two hundred and sixty four Rupees due from Brohier to the Company over and above his Bond, and had insisted on retaining (for there was no occasion for an Attachment) the money paid on his Account into the Company's Treasury at Bombay, towards satisfaction of this debt it had been impossible for this Woman to succeed and indeed it is almost impossible to conceive how the merits of the Company of this Suit could have been so mistaken or neglected. At present we have only to advise you, that we have paid here the Sum of Two hundred Pounds sterling for Costs upon the Appeal and that you must pay the Principal Debt and Interest, together with the Costs of Suit, decreed by the Mayor's Court, according to the directions of the present Order, and we hope, that in Cases of this kind more Circumspection and Care of the Company's Interest will be shewn for the future.

72 On the 1st instant We received the Account of the unfortunate loss of the Lord Clive 27th Febry on the Coast of France near Boulogne having sailed from the Downes in the Night of the 24th there is however expectation of the recovery of most part if not all the Cargo though it must certainly be greatly damaged, on the return hither of Messrs Raper and Blake two of the Supra Cargos they have been order'd to take Passage for China on board the Vansittart Mr Thomas the other Supra Cargo continues near

the Ship to assist in the Salvage of the Goods as far as lays in his Power.

73. We are now to advise you that in Consequence of the Notice given in [.....] Our General Letter dated the 21st Novr. last We have drawn upon you by these Ships the following Setts of Bills of Exchange at the rate of 2s. 1d. for the Current Rupee and at Thirty days Sight.—

One Sett for Curr. Rups. 5760 paya. to Mr. John Allen a Cadet at Bengal for Pounds Sterling Six Hundred rec'd. of himself dated 29th January 1767	}	Rs.	
		5760	£600
One Sett for Curr. Rs. 960 paya. to Mr. Alexr. Van Kixtell[?] for Pounds Sterlg. One Hundred rec'd of John Van Kixtell[?] dated 9th Febry. 1767	}	960	100
One Sett for C. Rs 1920 paya. to Capt. G. Nodes for Pounds Sterlg. Two hundred recd. of Fitz Williams Barrington Esqr. dated 19th Feby. 1767	}	1920	200
One Sett for C Rs. 6720 paya. to Wm. B. Sumner & Russell Skinner for Pounds Sterlg. seven hundred recd. of Humphy. Bellamy & Edwd. Pomfret dated 21st Febry. 1767	}	6720	700
		Total	£1600

We are,

✓ Your loving Friends

Geo. Dudley/Thos. Rous/John Harrison/Fredk. Pigou/F. W.  
Burrington/Peter Ducane Junr./J. Creswicke/Charles  
Chambers/George Cuming/Edwd. Wheler/Jos Dupré/Cha  
Cutts/Luke Scrafton/W. Cruttenden/John Roberts/Rob.  
Jones/Heny. Savage/J. Purling/Geo. Wombwell.

London 4th March 1767.

## LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1767

*Shipping news*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 We wrote you last by the Ships Earl of Elgin and Northington under date of the 4th instant in the Public and Separate Departments those Ships sailed on their Voyages the 8th with the London Norfolk, Vansittart Egmont and Worcester

2 The Ship Admiral Pocock is now under dispatch and enclosed are Triplicates of our beforementioned Letters of the 4th instant the several Consignments on board for your Presidency will appear by the accompanying Invoice and Bill of Lading to which we refer

3 We have ordered the Company's Ship Admiral Watson to be fitted for Sea and she will accordingly proceed to India this Season under the command of Captain John Griffin

We are

Your loving Friends

Geo Dudley/Tho Rous/F W Barrington/Fredk Pigou/  
J Pardoe/Charles Chambers/Jos Dupre/J Creswicke/  
Cha Cutts/Thos Saunders/John Harrison/Peter Ducane  
Junr/Christr Baron/J Purling/Geo Wombwell/Heny  
Savage/John Roberts/W Cruttenden/Rob Jones/Luke  
Scrafton/John Stephenson

London the 24th March 1767

## LETTER DATED 20 NOVEMBER 1767

*Copies of Acts of Parliament relative to the Company—an additional term to Lord Clive and his personal representative in his jagir—earlier orders in connection with the monopoly of inland trade confirmed—shares allocated to the senior servants of the Company from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of net Dewani revenue—concern for the late mutiny in the army—information wanted on the coinage.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last General Advices to you dated the 4th March 1767, went in Triplicate by the Ships Earl of Elgin, Northington and Admiral Pocock, since [which?] we wrote you a short Letter under date of the 24th of that month which went in Duplicate by the Ships Admiral Pocock and Earl of Chatham and a Triplicate is now sent on the Admiral Watson.

2. The several Letters from your Presidency which have come to hand since that period are as follow.

General Letter dated	...	6th September 1766 rece'd P. Cruttenden [19th July?]
General Letter dated	...	28th November 1766 rece'd P. Cruttenden [19th July?]
Letter from the Select Committee	...	8th September 1766 rece'd P. Cruttenden [19th July?]
Letter from the Select Committee	...	5th & 8th December 1766 rece'd P. Cruttenden [19th July?]
Letter from Lord Clive	...	6th September 1766 rece'd P. Cruttenden [19th July?]
Letter from Lord Clive	...	12th December 1766 rece'd P. Cruttenden [19th July?]
General Letter	...	20th January 1767 rece'd P. Britannia [15th July?]
Letter from Select Committee	...	24th January 1767 rece'd P. Britannia [15th July?]
General Letter	...	16th February 1767 rece'd P. Duke of Albany [2nd?]
Letter from the Select Committee	...	19th February 1767 rece'd P. Duke of Albany [2nd?]
Dup General Letter	...	12th March rece'd P. Mercury 26th Sept.
D. Lre. from President Verelst	...	17th March rece'd P. Mercury 26th Sept.
General Letter	...	30th March rece'd P. Mercury 26th Sept.
Select Committee Letter	...	10th April rece'd P. Mercury 26th Sept.

3. Since the date of our last Advices the following Ships have arrived viz.



<i>Ships</i>	<i>From whence</i>	<i>When Arrived</i>
Argo (Man of War)	Fort St George	9th May 1767
Asia	Bombay	14th May 1767
Prince of Wales	China	28th May 1767
Havannah	China	8th June 1767
Cruttenden	Bengal	20th June 1767
Speke	China	20th June 1767
Royal Charlotte	Bombay & Mocha	20th June 1767
Hampshire	China	27th June 1767
Lioness	—Do—	5th July 1767
Duke of Cumberland	—Do—	5th July 1767
Deptford	—Do—	6th July 1767
Glatton	—Do—	9th July 1767
Fox	—Do—	8th July 1767
Plassey	—Do— & Bencoolen	13th July 1767
Lord Camden	Fort St George	13th July 1767
Britannia	Bengal	14th July 1767
Duke of Kingston	China	17th July 1767
Earl of Ashburnham	—Do—	21st July 1767
Speaker	Bombay	15th August 1767
Duke of Albany	Bengal	1st September 1767
Hawke	China	2nd September 1767
Mercury Snow	Bengal	27th September 1767
Anson	Fort St George and Bengal	18th October 1767
Nottingham	Bengal (Kinsale)	9th October 1767
Pigot	Fort St George	20th October 1767
Devonshire	Bombay	11th November 1767
Neptune	China	14th November 1767

4 We have appointed the following Gentlemen to be our Secret Committee during the present direction viz Thomas Rous Esqr Chairman of the Court, Thomas Saunders Esqr Deputy Chairman, Henry Crabb Boulton, George Dudley, Robert Jones, John Manship and Henry Savage Esqr the Orders that they or any three of them shall give respecting the safety of our Outward or homeward bound Ships are to be punctually observed

5 The Several Ships we have taken up this Season for all parts of the East Indies and China, are upon the same terms and conditions of those entertain for the Service of the past Year, except in the Article of Diet for each Military Recruit, or other Person whose Passage to India is defrayed by the Company, which will be paid by us here at the rate of one Shilling a day from the time of his going on board the Ship wherein he may embark to her last departure from the Downes Each of the said Ships is let for 499 Tons, carries 26 Guns and 99 Men their Names, Commanders, Consignments and the intended times of their dispatches are as follow vizt

<i>Ships</i>	<i>Commanders</i>	<i>Consignments</i>	<i>Time proposed for dispatch</i>
Valentine	Charles Purvis	Coast and Bay	end of November
Verelst	Thomas Baddison	Madeira Coast & Bay	—Do—
Kent	John Milles	—Do—	—Do—
Clive	John Allen	Maderia Coast & China	—Do—
Duke of Richmond	Thomas Hindman	St. Helena & Bencoolen	—Do—
Pacifick	Charles Barkley	Coast & China	middle of Decem- ber
[Lord] Granby	Joseph Jackson	—Do—	—Do—
Grosvenor	David Saunders	—Do—	—Do—
Horsendon	Alexander Jameson	—Do—	—Do—
Sea Horse	Edward Dampier	—Do—	—Do—
True Briton	John Johnston	—Do—	—Do—
Tilbury	William Hunt	St. Helena & China	end of December
Dutton	David Rice	Theneriffe & Coast	—Do—
[Queen]	George Stainforth Junr.	& Bay —Do— —Do—	—Do—
Duke of Glocester	Robert Burdett	China	—Do—
Ankerwyke	Andrew Ross	Coast & Bay	end of January
Salisbury	John Wyche	—Do—	—Do—
Talbot	Sr. Chas. Hudson Bart.	—Do—	—Do—
New Ship	Benjamin Jones	Madeira & Bombay	—Do—
Thames	Charles Haggis	Bombay	—Do—
Royal Captain	Nathaniel Tanner	—Do—	end of February
Grenville	Burnet Abercrom- bie	—Do—	—Do—
Essex	Francis Reed	—Do—	—Do—
York	George Hayter.	—Do—	—Do—

6. And here we must acquaint you that we have not ordered any Ship to be detained this Season, as [had?] been customary for several Years past, to proceed from Bombay to China nor is any Ship to be sent from Bombay to Mocha for a Cargo of Coffee, as we ordered the Bute last Season upon that Service consequently all the Ships mentioned in the beforegoing List are [to] be dispatched home the same Season they arrive in India and China, for which purpose, you are carefull to attend to our repeated Directions to concert with our other Presidencies as early as possible the necessary measures.

7. Of the Nine China Ships of this Season, you will observe Seven of them are to proceed first to Fort St. George with sundry Consignments and Military Recruits.

8. We shall also direct three of the Bombay Ships to call first at Fort St. George for the like purposes vizt. the Grenville Essex and Yorke.

9. The Company's Ship Admiral Watson burthen 400 Tons, carrying 24 Guns navigated by 30 Men and Commanded by Capt. John Griffin, was refitted in order to convey to you and our

other Presidencies such Informations and directions as [might?] become necessary in consequence of the Parliamentary proceedings concerning the Company's Affairs, but as the parliament did not break up till it was too late in the Season for her to proceed so as to gain her passage to India this Year, she has been detained till this time to carry, in addition to those Advices the General Informations and Orders usually transmitted to our Presidencies by the first Ships of the Season, with such Remarks and Directions upon your beforementioned Advices as it may be necessary to, make by this Conveyance.

10. As the Coast and Bay Investments are much more valuable than any others and it will be greatly for the Interest of the Company to receive [.....] as large an Amount therein as possible, it will most probably happen that the eight Ships particularly destined for the Coast and Bay may not be sufficient for the purpose, therefore the having such an additional number of Ships as may be necessary to be the object of the earliest consideration of our respective Presidencies for concerting the proper measures accordingly.

11. If two or three of the Bombay Ships should be wanted for this Service they must either be [.....] of those which are to call first at Fort St. George, or one or more of the three direct Bombay Ships, the Thames, the New Ship Capt. Jones and the Royal Captain but as the determination upon the particular Ships must necessarily depend upon such Circumstances as shall upon the whole appear to be most for the Interest of the Company, it is a measure therefore which is to be concerted with several Presidencies which we recommend to be done as soon as possible, but if the time will not admit of consulting the Bombay Presidency on this occasion and the President and Council at Fort St. George on knowing what Tonnage they shall want and being informed by you of what may be wanted for the Bengal Investment, they have a discretionary power to detain so many of the Bombay Ships which call first at Fort St. George for these purposes as they shall think considering all circumstances, as before observed, will be most for the Interest of the Company.

12. And further if any more Ships shall be wanted for the purpose of bringing home the Coast and Bay Investments, in such case one or two of the China Ships which are bound first to Fort St. George are to be employed, in fixing upon which our President and Council at the last named place are to act impartially with a view to the general good of the Service.

13. And here we think proper to add that for the reasons beforementioned it is our meaning, that in all events a sufficient

number of Ships must be detained and employed for bringing home the Coast and Bay Investments, having in view as already directed the dispatch of all our Shipping the same Season they arrive.

14. The Admiral Watson is also to be returned home the same Season either from Fort St. George or Bengal with such a Cargo as you shall think proper to lade on her, unless it shall appear upon a careful Examination and the necessary Surveys that she will not be in a good Condition to perform the Voyage, in which case she is to be disposed of to the best advantage at any of our Presidencies.

15. In case of the Admiral Watson's being disposed of as before intimated the Commander is to be accountable for every thing committed to his care, agreeable to the Accounts and Inventories transmitted by her—among other particulars, for 1500 Ounces of foreign Silver put on board for Expenses in case of calling at any places in the Voyage for Refreshment and Necessaries.

16. If it shall be thought proper to dispose of the said Ship, the Wages that shall be due at that time must be paid to the Ship's Company agreeable to Contract, and the Accounts forwarded for that purpose, on that event Capt. Griffin may return to England or reside in India as will best suit him; the Mates may engage in the Company's or Private Service in the Seafaring way only, or if they chuse to return home and cannot get berths in our Freightened Ships, they are to have Orders to be received on board as Charterparty Passengers, and we will be accountable for the same to the Owners of such Ships in which they take Passage—With respect to the petty Officers and Foremost Men, we would have such of them as are fit for it sufficiently encouraged to engage in the Company's Marine Service at Bombay, which Presidency is much distressed for want of such People.

17. Such of the China Ships as when the beforementioned Circumstances have been duly attended to are designed for Canton are to be dispatched thither as soon as their Consignments for Fort St. George are delivered and those for the China Market are received on board all which must be done without loss of time the like is to be observed with respect to dispatching from Fort St. George to Bombay such of the Ships as shall be destined for bringing home the Investment from the last named Presidency.

18. The several Gentlemen whom we have thought proper to appoint of Council in China for the management of the Company's Concerns in the part the ensuing Season are Messrs. Henry Revell, Stephen De Visme, John Searle, Francis Wood, Benjamin Torin,

Mann Horner, Robert John Harrison, Thomas Thomas, William Rous, John Walton, Thomas Bevan & Wm. Harrison.

19. And the Ships which we have consigned to the said Council are the Clive bound first to Madeira and Fort St. George, and thence to Canton, the Pacifick, Granby, Grosvenor, Horsendon, Sea Horse and True Briton bound first to Fort St. George and thence to Canton, the Tilbury bound first to St. Helena and thence to Canton, the Duke of Gloucester bound to Canton directly and the Lord Mansfield which we ordered to be sent thither from Bombay in the Year 1766[67] but here we must repeat the Observation we made to you in our Letter of the 21st November 1766 that in case the last mentioned Ship was from any accident not in a Condition to proceed from Bombay to China no other Ship was to be sent that Voyage in her stead lest it might be the means of distressing our Presidencies in point of Tonnage for sending [.....] the large Investments we had ordered that Season.

20. Besides the beforementioned Ships the said Council have general Instructions to take [.....] their management such Ship or Ships as our respective Presidents and Councils may be at a loss for want of Goods to dispatch home usually called Casual Ships if there shall happen to be any under that Circumstance.

21. As we have for some time past found it necessary for part of the China Council to continue there the Year round we have therefore appointed Messrs. Revell, De Visme, Wood, Torin, Rous, Bevan and Wm. Harrison, to reside there in the Year 1769 and the customary directions are given them for conducting and taking care of the Company's Affairs on the coming away of such of the beforenamed Council as are ordered to leave China in the Season of the Year 1768, and previous to the arrival of those Supra Cargos whom we may constitute Members of the succeeding Council.

22. As we have not time at present to examine particularly into your proceedings upon the enquiries in respect to Illicit Trade, we can only observe that they appear in general to have been prosecuted agreeable to our directions—This being an object which must be constantly in view, we do again repeat our positive Orders to you and our other Presidencies to exert yourselves in the pursuit of every possible method that may lead to the discovery and detection of this unwarrantable Commerce, in which you are to be guided as far as Circumstances will admit by the directions we gave last Season for the manner of your Proceeding in the Enquiries upon this Subject.

23. It being necessary for you to be acquainted in general with the Articles of our intended Export for India and China the ensuing

Season, we now inform you that they will principally consist of the following vizt.

*For Bengal*

Cloth 565 Bales, Broad Long Ells 50 Bales of 10 pieces each, Camblets 1 Bale, Lead 330 Tons, Copper 347 Tons, Iron 150 Tons, Gunpowder 880 Barrels, Small Arms 405 Chests, Madeira Wine 150 Pipes and Vidonia Wine from the Island Teneriffe 100 Pipes.

The Bales will be sent on the Ships Valentine and Salisbury.

And with respect to the Copper and other articles they will be forwarded in nearly equal Proportions on the Eight Coast and Bay Ships the Wines excepted, which will go as hereafter mention'd. But for a more particular Account of our Export for Bengal you are referred to the Invoices of the respective Ships.

*For Fort St. George*

Cloth 906 Bales, Long Ells 95 Bales of 20 pieces each Camblets 1 Bale, White Flannels 1 Bale, [cu.....] Flannels 1 Bale, Lead 110 Tons, Copper [280?] Tons, Iron 200 Tons, Steel 5 Tons, Small Arms 416 Chests, Gunpowder 600 Barrels of 60 lbs. each, Madeira Wine 100 Pipes and Vidonia Wine 100 Pipes.

The Bales are divided equally on the Pacifick and Horsendon, the other Articles in nearly equal Proportions on the Seven Coast and China Ships.

*For Bombay*

For the Bombay Market, Cloth 1701 Bales, Long Ells 200 Bales of 20 Pieces each, Broad Long Ells 35 Bales of 10 pieces each, Lead 200 Tons, Copper 150 Tons, Iron 200 Tons, Steel 50 Tons, Tin 50 Tons, Small Arms 129 Chests, Gunpowder 100 Barrels, Madeira Wine 50 Pipes and Vidonia Wine to be sent from Fort St. George 25 Pipes.

For Bussorah Market, Cloth 272 Bales, Long Ells 50 Bales of 10 Pieces in each.

For Bushire Market, Cloth 299 Bales, Long Ells 50 Bales of 10 Pieces in each.

The abovementioned Articles are to be divided as equally as Circumstances will admit on the Six Ships consigned to Bombay, except the Madeira Wine which is to be sent on the New Ship Capt. Jones.

*For Fort Marlborough*

Iron 50 Tons, Steel 10 Tons, Gunpowder 60 Barrels, Beef and Pork 40 half hlds of each, Anchors and Grapnels 9 Tons, Iron mongers Ware 10 Tons, [Tin?] 20 Tons Cordage 17 Tons, Pitch and Tar 3 Tons, Coal 10 Childrons

The abovementioned Articles are laden on the Duke of Richmond

As this Presidency will want many Articles from the other Presidencies you are according to our former Orders to comply with the Indents they shall transmit to you from time to time in the fullest and speediest manner

As no Silver will be sent from hence to Fort Marlborough this Season you and our Presidency of Fort St George are to take the proper measures for a speedy remittance thither of so much treasure as it shall be advised from thence may be wanting for their purchases and various expences

*For Canton*

Cloth 1139 Bales, Long Ells 1000 Bales of 20 Pieces in each Camblets 50 Bales, Hurbines 20 Bales and Lead 370 Tons

1,200 of the said Bales will be shipt on the Duke of Gloucester, 600 on the Granby and 409 on the True Briton and 300 Tons of the Lead will be sent on the direct China Ship, 150 on the St Helena and China Ship, and 420 on the Seven Coast and China Ships being 60 Tons on each

24 Our Correspondents at Madeira are directed to consign to you by Invoice and Bill of Lading the beforementioned 150 Pipes of Wine in the manner following vizt

	Pipes
By Messrs Chambers, Hiccox and Denyer 50 Pipes each on the Verelst and Kent	100
By Messrs Scott Pringle Cheap & Co 25 Pipes each on the same Ships	50
	<hr/>
	Pipes 150
	<hr/>

the said Wines will have been Twelve Months in store on the Island and as those Gentlemen were pressed to procure the best sorts that were to be got we persuade ourselves they will turn out in a satisfactory manner However you will particularly report their quality

with the Condition of the [casks] and their Stowage that the Owners may be answerable for such defects as may be owing to the want of due care on board.

25. Observing the Advices you give concerning the Vidonia Wine consigned to you by the Pigot we have made our Correspondents at Teneriffe acquainted therewith and particularly directed that they be attentive to the Quality and furnish that sort which you prefer we have very strongly recommended it to them to take every precaution that prudence can suggest effectually to guard against Leakage and prevent as far as in them lays the inconvenience's which it appears by your Import Warehousekeeper's Report the consignment, by the Pigot was subject to in point of stowage, by causing the Casks to be made in every respect of strength sufficient for their Preservation.

26. We have directed our Correspondents in addition to the 150 Pipes provided and in Warehouse there for near Twelve Months past, to procure 50 Pipes more on the same terms as mentioned in our Letter of the 21st November last making together 200 Pipes to be shipped for the Coast and Bay 100 whereof are directed by Invoice and Bill of Lading to be consigned to you on the Ship Dutton by Messrs. John Collogan and Sons to whose Wines you give the preference, it must be your care according to former Orders to give particular Accounts of their quality with the condition of the Casks, that the Owners of the Dutton may be accountable for Deficiencies arising from any improper Stowage or Pilferage on board.

27. Our Letter of the 21st November last dispensed with the Public Sales of the Madeira and Vidonia Wines and directed the division of them among our Civil and Military Servants who were usually entitled to that indulgence in equitable proportions agreeable to their respective Stations at an Advan[ce?] of Thirty P Cent on Invoice including the full prime cost and leakage—We continue and confirm the same terms until the contrary shall be signified to you.

28. From the above Consignments of Wine you are to set apart Five Pipes of Madeira and Five Pipes of Vidonia, for the use of our Presidency of Fort Marlborough to be sent thither by the first good Conveyances that shall offer, our Presidency of Fort St. George have also directions for furnishing the same Quantities out of the Consignments to them.

29. We have directed Twenty six-Pounder Guns to be put



into the hold of the Admiral Watson as dead Weight to be consigned for the use of our Settlements in India and delivered accordingly, 50 Chests of Small Arms are also shipped for the same Service as the Invoice and Bill of Lading specify.

30 The Greenwich being unable to receive the entire quantity of Goods designed for Bombay by that Ship, eighty Bales of Long Lls and Eleven Tons of Lead are shipped on the Admiral Watson to be delivered to you, the Long Lls may be forwarded to Bombay by the first proper opportunity that offers accompanied with the necessary Accounts thereof unless you shall be able to dispose of them, in [ ] case we permit you to sell the same at Calcutta accordingly

31 We have attentively considered the several Indents for your Presidency and have complied with them as fully as we judge your occasions require and the Tonnage of this Year's Shipping will admit of

32 The whole Consignment of Drugs and Medicines for the present Year to Bengal are to be furnished by the Company of Apothecaries, as they were last Season, and agreeable to the directions we then gave a Report is to be made of their Quality and Condition, with any Remarks you may have to offer thereon for our future consideration

33 We observe with much pleasure that the supply of 24 Lacks from your Presidency to China in the Year 1766 with the further aids given thereto from Fort St George, had not only enabled our Council to give full Loadings to all our Ships therein that Season, but would leave them in Possession after their dispatch of so large a Surplus Stock, as [Tales?] 1,500 000 Your Resolution upon receiving this Information not to send more than 24 Lacks thither in 1767 was very proper and corresponds entirely with our directions of last Season for governing your Supplies by the advices you may receive from our Supra Cargos and which must be an invariable Rule for your assisting this important Branch of our Commerce upon all future occasions according to the Plan there laid down, observing it is our intention that the Cargo of each Ship from China shall amount to £45 000 at least, and that our Supra Cargos shall have a stock remaining after the dispatch of every Ship in the Season it [arrive ] sufficient for beginning—an Investment for the Ships expected in the ensuing Season

34 We cannot by this first Conveyance send you a particular List of the Investment to be made in Bengal for such of the Ships proceeding to India this Season which will be employed by you on this interesting Service we shall therefore at present only observe, that in providing the large Investment consigned to us by the several

Ships arrived this Year, you have exerted yourselves greatly to our satisfaction and we shall depend upon a continuance of the same Care and Attention, that the Company through this Channel may have the benefit of receiving, as large a proportion of the Bengal Revenues, as circumstances will possibly admit of and in order thereto, it will be highly necessary you should send us as large Quantities of fine Goods and Raw Silk as can be procured, and this to be done as early as the Season will admit of, that every Ship may have its Proportion.

35. It will be further necessary and we accordingly direct that you load on every Ship as must (*sic*) Surplus tonnage as she can carry consistent with her safety observing however to make every one as equal in point of value and Tonnage as Circumstances will admit of, we give the like directions to our other Presidencies.

36. The Salt Petre to be provided the ensuing Season at your Presidency for the Europe Market is to be two thousand Tons, the same Quantity as we have ordered for the two last Years, this being the whole to be sent home from all our Settlements to [.....] you are to concert the necessary measures with Presidents and Council at Fort St. George and Bombay Accordingly.

37. We are much concerned to find there is the same ground for Complaint this Season, as there was last, with respect to the Cargos of the French and Dutch Ships being much more valuable than ours, owing to the larger Proportion of Fine Goods than we receive, of which we have undoubted Information from Persons who were present at the said Company's late Sales, and as we have great reason to believe that some of our Servants have been concerned in providing Cargos for the French and Dutch Ships, we therefore direct you to make a strict Enquiry in order to discover who among them have been guilty of so great a breach of Trust, and let the Persons be whom they may that shall appear to have acted so unfaithful and injurious a part to their Employers, you are immediately to dismiss them our Service and send them home allowing them a reasonable time only for settling their private Concerns, which time is not to exceed twelve Months.

38. Mr. John Purling Junr. whom we nominated one of the Writers for Bengal the last Season being prevented by a severe fit of Sickness from proceeding to his Appointment at that time, we gave him permission to continue here without prejudice to his rank till the departure of the Ships of this Season upon one of which he will accordingly take his Passage.

39. Upon due consideration of the Advices received from India this Season particularly those from your Presidency, it did not

appear necessary to send any Writers this Year to either of the Presidencies, and we have come to that Resolution accordingly.

40. As the encresing the number of Free Merchant in India, particularly at Bengal may be very prejudicial to the Company's Affairs, we have determined not to allow of any persons proceeding to India this Season in that Character, excepting Messrs. Godfrey Noke John Douglass, Home Brown and Daniel De Castro who have obtained our permission, previous to our coming to the said Resolution.

41. Mr. John Clerk who went to Bengal as a Free Merchant in 1763, alledging his private Affairs in Europe obliged him to return and leave his Effects in India, has applied to us to proceed thither again in that Character; but as we had previously come to the Resolution, not to send out any Free Merchants this Season, we have permitted him to proceed to Bengal and reside there two Years only, in order to adjust his Affairs, and at the expiration of that term to take passage to England on the first Ship, you are therefore to see that he conforms to the terms upon which we have allowed him to go to India, and not suffer him to stay any longer upon any pretence whatsoever.

42. The same reasons subsisting this Season [.....] the last, for availing ourselves of every Channel through which the Company can realize here as large a part of their Revenues as possible, we shall continue to draw Bills upon you for all such Sums as should offer and be paid into our Treasury here, by the Owners of our Freightred Ships and all other Persons whatsoever—The Commanders are also to be advanced out of the Cash at our several Presidencies on account of the said Owners all such Sums of Money as they shall stand in need of, in all which Cases the Directions we gave in our Letters of the 21st November, 1766 and the 7th January following were so full and explicit that we have only to refer you to them for your Observance and to add that they are to continue in force until we give Orders to the contrary.

43. We are come to a Resolution to send out this Season Two thousand Military Recruits, Seventeen hundred of whom will be destined for our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Fort William, and the remaining three hundred for Bombay—With respect to the particular proportions for the two first named Places and whatever else shall be necessary to advice relative to the Military Establishment will be taken up in our Advices by the Ships which are to follow the Admiral Watson.

44. We observe you have affixed the Company's Seal to the Certificates, which were granted for Money paid into your Treasury

by the Commanders and Officers of our Ships on Account of the produce of their Outward bound Adventure—As it was never intended to make use of our Seal for such purposes, you must be careful not to apply it on any such occasions in future.

45. The Enquiry into the state and Condition of the East India Company, engaged the time and attention of Parliament from the beginning to the end of the last Session in the course whereof every Book, Paper and Account were called for and laid before the Hon'ble House of Commons which could tend to give them any information into the Company's Affairs, and to the same purpose many persons were examined at the Bar of the House, in short the enquiry was carried on with that minute scrutiny that almost every Circumstance of the Company at least every material and interesting one lay fully open to their view, The Right Hon'ble the House of Lords went likewise into an Examination of many parti[.....] but not so extensive as the Commons, and consequently took up much less time—Upon the whole the undernamed Acts of Parliament relative to the East India Company, were made in the said Sessions, Printed Copies whereof we now transmit for your Information vizt.

An Act for regulating the Proceedings of certain Public Companies and Corporations carrying on trade or Dealings with Joint Stocks, in respect to the declaring of Dividends; and for further regulating the Qualification of Members for voting in their respective General Courts.

An Act for regulating certain Proceedings of the General Courts of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

An Act for taking off the Inland Duty of one Shilling P Pound Weight upon all Black and [singlo Teas?] consumed in Great Britain, and for granting a drawback upon the Exportation of Teas to Ireland and the British Dominions in America for a limited time, upon such Indemnification to be made in respect thereof by the East India Company as is therein mentioned, for permitting the Exportation of Teas in smaller quantities than one Lot to Ireland, or the said Dominions in America; and for preventing Teas seized and condemned from being consumed in Great Britain An Act for establishing an Agreement for the Payment of the annual Sum of £400,000 for a limited time by the East India Company, in respect of the Territorial Acquisitions and Revenues lately obtained in the East Indies.

46. By one of the abovementioned Acts the Company is to pay for the use of the Public £400,000 a Year for two Years certain, and

by another for lowering the Duties and allowing a drawback upon the Exportation of Teas to Ireland and the British Colonies in America, the Company is to make good to the Public the difference which shall arise in the Revenues on the said Accounts in the manner therein mentioned, which difference it is apprehended will amount to about £200,000 a Year before the Regulations in the said Act can operate to the advantage of the Company—To these Sums adding the difference between Six P Cent dividend to the Proprietors of India Stock and Ten P Cent now actually paid being £128,000 and you will readily see that it will require your utmost care and attention to enable us by the Encrease of your Remittances through every possible Channel to Discharge these great annual Sums in Addition to all the other our various and heavy outgoings, and we expect you will exert yourselves accordingly.

47. We have appointed Archibald Staples a Writer on the Bengal Establishment and to take rank next below William Roger Antony Dumbleton, he proceeds to his Station on the Admiral Watson and was appointed before we came to the Resolution of sending no Writers this Season.

48. Since writing the beforegoing, we have taken up the Ship Harcourt burthen 499 Tons, carrying 99 Men and 26 Guns upon the same Terms and conditions as the other Ships of this Season and shall consign her directly to Canton, in settling the disposition therefore of the Tonnage for bringing home the Coast and Bay Investments with our other Presidencies, one or two of the China Ships which call first at Fort St. George may agréable to the directions in the former part of this Letter be more conveniently spared if wanted for that purpose.

49. We have appointed Mr. Henry Wedderburn to be Deputy Master Attendant at your Presidency and to succeed as Master Attendant upon the death or absence of Captain Page Keble, and he will take his passage out on one of the Ships of this Season accordingly.

50. Mr. John Wright who proceeds on the Admiral Watson, is to be employed in the Pilot Service at Bengal on the same terms as the Volunteers for the Bombay Marine Vizt. to serve the Company for five years at the pay of Forty Shillings P Month.

51. It has been always necessary for our being informed from time to time of the Arrival and Departure of Ships belonging to the French, Dutch, Danes and all other European Nations whatsoever together with as full and exact an Account of the Treasure, Goods, Merchandize etc. imported and exported and the Sortments, Quantities and Values thereof, as can possibly be obtained—As

such informations are made particularly material in the present situation of the Company's Affairs, we earnestly recommend it to and enjoin you to use your utmost endeavours to get at the knowledge of the beforementioned particulars and without fail advise us thereof by every conveyance that offers—We do not mean that your Enquiries should be confined to your Presidency, they are to be extended to every part from whence you can draw any information of this kind—We have given the like directions to our other Presidencies.

52. The great difficulty which attends the raising of Recruits, with the heavy Expence we are put to for transporting them to our several Settlements in India, makes us very solicitous to promote every measure for the preservation of their Healths, And as we have been informed it is usual upon their first arrival at Calcutta to suffer them to range about the Town for some days, whereby they have debauched and hurt their Constitutions; We highly approve the order passed by the Select Committee on the 27th March last, in consequence of a proposal made by Col. Smith, that the Recruits should not be landed [as] usual at Calcutta, but be forwarded by water immediately to Cossimbuzar and conducted from thence to the proper Barracks.

53. The General Court of Proprietors taking under their Consideration the eminent Services of Lord Clive did on the 23rd September last come to the following Resolution Vizt. "Resolved that this General Court in consideration of the important Services rendered to this Company by Lord Clive, do recommend it to and empower the Court of Directors to make a Grant under the Company's Seal to Lord Clive and his personal Representatives of an additional term of Ten Years in his Lordship's Jaghire, commencing from the determination of his Lordship's present right therein provided the Company shall be in the possession of the Lands out of which the Jaghire Issues, during such additional term of Ten Years."

54. We are to inform you that by the first Agreement with Lord Clive bearing date the 16th day of May 1764, His Lordship was to enjoy the Jaghire of 222,958—, Sicca Rupees P Annum for Ten Years commencing from the 5th day of said May, 1764, that is to say to the 5th May 1774 if his Lordship should so long live, but in case of his Lordship's Decease before the Expiration of the said Ten Years, then the said Jaghire was to cease upon the day of his Death By the Instrument now executed in consequence of the beforementioned Resolution of the General Court the said Jaghire is to be paid Lord Clive, his Executors Administrators and Assigns during the term of ten Years, to Commence and be

computed from the said 5th May 1774 in case Lord Clive shall be then living or otherwise in case Lord Clive shall happen to die before the said 5th day of May 1774 then to Commence from and immediately after his Death, and payment to be continued to his Executors, Administrators and Assigns for 10 Years from the day of his Death and no longer, to be made every Year by quarterly Payments at Fort William provided the Company are in actual possession of the Lands out of which the said Jaghire issues—But for a more particular information of the said Grant we refer you to a Copy of the Original Instrument under Company's Seal here with sent, in order for your [confirmation] to the several Terms and Conditions therein contained so far as relates to you

55 By an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament (which you will herewith receive) you will further see the Agreement at present subsisting between the Public and the Company, with respect to a participation in the Advantages arising from the Company's late Territorial Acquisitions and Revenues. In consequence of this Agreement it is indispensably necessary that you should transmit to us a Complete Account of the Sums received from the Revenues of Bengal and Bahar, from the Commencement of the Duannee continued to the latest period, together with the particulars of the several sums that may have been paid on that account—such as the Tribute to the King the Nabob's Allowance, the payment to the Serfs, the ordinary Charges of Collections or of any other Sums to the Payment of which those Revenues may be subject, whereby the Nett Amount of the Sircarry Revenues may be seen at one view

56 In this Account it is requisite that you should particularize the several Monthly Receipts and Payments in order that we may be enabled to separate the same for any periods that may be necessary and you must take care that the Account be duly signed by the President and Council as well as such of our Servants as by their stations are qualified to authenticate the same

57 Though the Revenues arising from the Duannee are the more immediate Object of Public Attention, you must not fail at the same time to transmit to us an Account properly authenticated of the other Revenues of your Presidency digested in like manner with respect to Receipts and payments to correspond with the Period of the Duannee or Sircarry Revenues—from both which Accounts we may form such a state of our Revenues as may be required of us

58 You will perceive by the Act of Agreement that in case of the Company's being dispossessed by any Foreign Power of any

part of their territorial Acquisitions and Revenues a proportional Abatement is to be made from the annual Sum to be paid to the Public—We therefore rely on your judgment for supplying us in any such case with every particular information and account that may be necessary to support an application for the Redress specified in the Act.

59. As the Charges of your Presidency and Subordinates may be considered as a Deduction from the Amount of the Revenues, in order to shew the Nett Income or Profit thereof, we likewise direct that you do transmit to us a particular account of those several Charges digested under the distinct heads of Civil, Military and Marine for the same period as that of your Revenues, distinguishing each Month which Account we need not observe to you must also be properly authenticated—We must here observe that by the Military Charges we mean that the whole of such Expenditure should appear in this Account but it will be necessary that you should distinguish the several Brigades and the independent Battalions of Sepoys that we may deduct the whole or such part only as you have thought proper to carry to the Account of Duannee or Sircarry Revenues.

60. As it is a matter of the utmost importance, that we should receive the several particulars herein directed you must not omit to send them by the first Ship of each Season and for fear of any failure therein you will take care to transmit by the succeeding Ships Duplicates and Triplicates of all such Papers and Accounts as are here before directed or as you may think necessary to answer the purposes of the Company with respect to the present or any future Agreement with the Public.

61. We received P Admiral Watson an Abstract of the Monthly Disbursements of your Presidency for the Year 1765 and we find that the like Abstract appears on your Consultations for several Months of the succeeding Year—This we trust to see continued and that the same be regularly entered for every Month, but we have to remark that your Disbursements appearing so very high we are apprehensive they must be advances to the several Employes rather than the Actual State of your Expences, so that, without some Explanation thereof, we cannot apply these Accounts to the purpose[s] they may be intended to answer; You will therefore inform us, of the nature of these Disbursements, and whether they are to be understood as the Nett Charges of your Presidency and Subordinates.

62. We have farther to observe that even in case these Abstracts should be the exact State of your Monthly Expences, our



beforegoing Orders for your transmitting to us a distinct Account thereof must be punctually complied with, as it is impossible for us to separate and digest with any Precision the several Articles of these Abstracts under the heads of Civil, Military and Marine

63 In the Statements of your Presidency transmitted to us we observe that your (*sic*) insert therein your Fortifications and Buildings which cannot be considered as an effective part of a Quick Stock Account, and at the same time you omit all debts except such as are on Account Outcry<sup>1</sup> though the Balances of the several Officers and all other recoverable Debts might very properly make a part thereof, and on the Credit side of your Statements no other Debts appear but that at Interest, whereas every Sum for which the Company are answerable should also have been inserted by which we should have seen the Balance of your Presidency in its active State your former method you must therefore correct, and send us in future the Statements of your Presidency, compos'd of the proper Articles of your Quick Stock, such as [ ] Treasure, Goods and Effects of every Kind, together with such debts as may be depended on, from which of course, you will draw the several Sums, that shall at the same time be due from the Company

64 With respect to the Statements of your Subordinates, which appear in your Quick Stock Accounts, we disapprove of your inserting them, in the general manner you have hitherto done, and in future, you must take care that their several Statements be specified, with such particulars, as we have directed you to insert, in those of your Presidency, and in your Quick Stock P Duke of Albany, we have the satisfaction to see, that you have pursued this method with respect to Patna, excepting only your having included therein, the value of the Factory Houses

65 We cannot quit this Subject without further animadverting on the Statements of your Subordinates, which are closed for periods far short of your own, this irregularity is the more inexcusable as it appears, that at the time of your sending P Ponsborne, the Statement of your Presidency, to the 24th March 1766, in which you insert that of Patna closed to the 31st October, and of Dacca the 15th Novemr 1765, you were in possession of their respective Quick Stocks, to the 28th February 1766, and further, in your Statement P Cruttenden to 24th November 1766, your Subordinates continue exactly in the same State, as in that P Ponsborne

66 As it is of importance to us, to receive your Quick Stocks to the latest period, we expect that you take care, that your

Subordinates do transmit to you, their respective States, time enough before the dispatch of your Ships, for you to insert them in your own, with the particulars before directed; these States you must transmit by every opportunity, and for the greater exactness, you must specify at the foot thereof, what Ships under dispatch had received their Cargoes, prior to the closing of the Quick Stock Account.

67. It is with particular pleasure we observe, the Proceedings of your Committee of Inspection, wh[.....] have therein discovered, an Attention highly commendable, and whose regulations must be productive of very desirable Effects, not only with respect to the appointment of Servants in the several Offices, but also to the establishing a proper method, and Order in the Accounts of each Department, but as you must be sensible that the best Rules stand in need of being continually attended to and enforced we rely on your Care, that the Plan laid down by the Committee, be duly followed.

68. We with Pleasure also find, that our Orders for the adjustment of several heads on your General Books had in part been anticipated by the Observation of the Committee.—As for those which remain unadjusted, we expect to receive from you, such Explanation on each particular, as may enable us to give, our final directions relative thereto.

69. We depend on your pursuing proper measures for the discharge of the Balances, due from John Cooke<sup>2</sup>, Adrian Bisdom<sup>3</sup>, William Watts<sup>4</sup>, Coja Wannis<sup>5</sup> and Rajah Tilluckchand<sup>6</sup>, and that you give us the necessary Information, in case you are not able to recover such Debts, from the Principals or their respective Agents.

70. We find that you have adjusted and closed, the Heads of Expedition against the Dutch and Indemnification received from them, but the Adjustment would have been more satisfactory to us, had you carried the difference of those heads im'ediately to profit and Loss, instead of Campaign Operations, and Marine Charges; As these Expences for the Year would not then, as in the Present Case, have been improperly reduced.

71. The Circumstances you mention, relative to the Debt of Current Rupees 2970...4..., standing in the Names of Bellamy and Mapletoft, would seem to justify the Transfer thereof to the Head of Ramch[und,] but as that Sum does not stand on your books in the name of Ramchund, the propriety of such Transfer does not appear to us, however as there is a Sum of Current Rupees 11815...9—in his Name, which may be composed of different Notes of which the Sum of Current Rupees 2970...4—may be a part; we

must refer this matter to your further consideration, and if you find sufficient grounds, for transferring the Debt of Bellamy and Mapletost<sup>7</sup>, to Ranchund's Account, you may determine as you shall think proper, but we expect to be more fully informed of the State of this Transaction, and the reasons of your determination

72 In the Adjustments of the Books of Cossimbuzar Factory, we observe the sum of Current Rupees 1,091,9[3] 1 6, which you are of opinion should have been wrote off, to Estimate of Losses occasioned by the Capture of Calcutta in 1756, if Effects to this Amount were actually lost by the plunder of Surajah Dowla, we should not hesitate to direct, that the same might be immediately wrote off as you propose, but by the Cossimbuzar Books ending April 1755, being the last before the Capture which have been transmitted to us, the Balance of the Factory, appears to include a great Number of Debts, which may probably make a part of the above Sum, which Debts should continue on Balance and every measure be taken for the recovery thereof, but as for want of the Books of that Factory since its re establishment, as well as the Year preceding the Capture, we cannot see the particulars of this Adjustment, we must let this matter remain, till you shall have supplied us with every requisite information

73 Your silence with respect to the state of Outstanding Debts, and Dadney due from the Merchants, prevents us from giving any directions, relative to the closing those Accounts, we must therefore wait for your Opinion, on the several Debts that compose those Heads, which we the (*sic*) rather expect to receive, as they appear to have been referred to you, by the Committee of Inspection, we shall only here remark that in the Accounts, now remaining under the Head of Dadney, from the Merchants the Sum of Current Rupees 4366 10 , which is brought on the Books 1763, 1764, in the name of Bungabenaut Seat, stands at the close thereof in the Name of Rosbeharry Seat, without any apparent Transfer, and continues so on your last Books, this error you will of course rectify, when you give us, your opinion of the nature of the Debt, and the circumstances of the Debtor

74 It is with great satisfaction, that we have received, the General Books of your Presidency brought up to their due period, and your assurance that they shall be regularly kept up, and transmitted home annually, with those of your Subordinates Settlements, is very agreeable to us, as under your present Regulations, we cannot doubt, of your future punctuality in this respect, but we must still complain, of your not having forwarded to us the Books of your Subordinates, which we have so repeatedly required you to send us, in a complete Series, and as we trust that they are by this

time, properly methodized and adjusted, we must insist on your compliance with our Orders, for the Books of the past Years, as well as those for the Year preceding the dispatch of your Ships.

75. We are greatly disappointed in not receiving the Books of your Military Paymaster General for the Year, ending April 1766, as it is at th[.....] time more especially necessary for us to be acquainted with the particulars of your Military Expences—The Neglect and Misbehaviour of Mr. Keighley the Accountant under the Paymaster, which has deprived us of such material Information, have justly merited the Degradation you have punished him with, which we hereby approve and confirm, and if at the end of the Year, there is not a favorable Account of his Conduct you will then dismiss him the Service; We hope this Example, will have the desired Effect, and that nothing will prevent you in future from regularly transmitting the Books of that Department.

76. From the plan laid down by the Committee of Inspection for regulating the Military Paymaster's Books, we trust to find them so full and explicit, that we shall be able to trace with ease, the particulars of every Charge, which is a point we recommend to your Attention.

77. We are sorry to remark, that the Index you have sent with your Consultations for the Year [176.....] is by no means so copious and exact as it ought to be; this Defect must have been avoided, had [the] Form we sent been duly attended to, and the least Judgment exerted in extending it to all material Circumstances—Your Index is also rendered of very little use, by the frequent omissions of the numeral References, such a Neglect is deserving Reproof, not only in the Copier, but in the Officer who should have examined the same, and is what we cannot excuse in future, since in the extent and importance of your Transactions, every means of Enquiry and observation; should be facilitated to us.

78. In your Letters, we find frequent omission of Numbers to your Paragraphs, we therefore desire you will direct your Secretary, to take care that all such omissions be avoided, and that the General business of his Office be executed with greater Exactness.

79. By the examination we have hitherto been able to make, since the arrival of your Books ending April 1766, we are pleased to see so great a progress made in bringing the General books of your Presidency into proper order and regularity; and we shall from time to time make such Remarks, as may be found necessary for their further improvement.

80. Upon inspecting the state of your Profit and Loss on

Europe Goods, it appears that the several Sums wrote off to that Account, from the different Heads of Broad Cloth, P[?]erpets, Lead, Copper etc. are in general imaginary, that your Books do not exhibit, either separately or collectively, the real Loss or Gain on those Articles for the year and that the remaining Balances, are not the actual value of the Goods in the Warehouse.

81. We observe that the Articles delivered out for use, or to the retail Godown are sometimes wrote off, from the Credit of the Account at an [advanced] price and sometimes, according to the rate of the former Balance; whereas, all such should have been at the Invoice value, since any other method, must occasion a false Profit or Loss on the respective Articles.

82. In the Balance remaining on your Books, of the Goods beforementioned, the value thereof appears to be estimated by the sum brought from the former Books, without regard to the several Quantities received from Europe at different prices in the course of the year but as part of these Receipts, must often be included the Goods remaining, they must consequently make them different in value, from those of the former Balance.

83. It is impossible for us to adjust these Accounts or to point out the several particulars in which they may be erroneous, as we cannot by the Books discover, what species of each head were sold, delivered for use, or remain on hand—but as what has been already said is sufficient to shew, that by your present method, [the] Profit and Loss, and the Balance of Europe Goods, must be in some degree imaginary, we therefore trust that in your future Books, you will take care to state these Accounts, with such regularity and precision as to remove every objection.

84. We desire also that you would correct your present method, of blending the several particulars of your General Charges, with the various Articles of your Profit and Loss, the different Heads of Charges, should appear in one entry at the close of your Journal, and so be carried to Charges General, which last head should be immediately wrote off to Profit and Loss as is the practice at our other Presidencies, this would at once shew the amount of your Charges, for the view of which, we are at present obliged to collect the several Articles, from your Profit and Loss Account.

85. We are sorry that we have any occasion to complain, of your omitting to inform us in your Letters of important Circumstances in your transaction the knowledge of which, we are left to obtain from your Consultations or separate Papers, but as without a minute examination therein, many occurrences may escape us, it is incumbent on you, to point out by references or otherwise, all

such as may be material for our information, for want of such Notices in your Letters, we are at this time at a loss to account, for any Articles on your General Books ending April 1766, under the head of Contribution Money, this Sum appears to have been received of the King, and of Sujah Dowlah, but the Journal does not explain on what Account, for want of which explanation, we cannot judge, whether the same should have been carried to Profit and Loss, or might with more propriety, have been wrote off to some other head, and here, we must cursorily observe, that in all new Transactions, the first Journal Entry should be very explicit and at the same time as concise as possible.

86. From the deficiency of your information, we find ourselves charged with tacitly allowing, the Commission drawn on the Midnapore Revenues, and the Emoluments received by the Chief and Council as Burdwan, as you imagined the same, might have been discovered by us, from your General Books, had our silence proceeded from oversight, on our part; the President and Council must have been highly blamable, for leaving so striking a point to an uncertain discovery, but as to the supposition, that the same might have been traced on the General Books, for more than a twelve month, before our Orders for refunding were sent you, we shall observe, that your General Books for the Years 1760 to 1763, were not received, till the Season immediately preceding the order beforementioned, and we must farther remark, that even on those Books or any since received, we are so far from being able to trace, the particular Charges attending the Revenues of the three Provinces, that they do not distinguish the Nett Receipts on each Revenue, hence your Argument, that our Silence was an acquiescence in such Allowances is entirely refuted.

87. This Leads us to require an Alteration, in your method, of bringing on your Books the Revenues of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, which instead of standing Collectively, under the head of the Committee of Lands,<sup>s</sup> should appear under three distinct Heads, whereby the Receipts and Charges on each respectively, might be seen at one view, this we conclude you will find no difficulty to comply with, as you must necessarily have the separate Accounts of each Province.

88. We have taken your Plan for conducting the Salt Trade, as contained in Your Proceedings of the 8th Septemr. 1766 into our most serious consideration, and having revised all that we and you have wrote, on the Subject of the Inland trade in general, and of Salt in particular, we are the more convinced of the absolute necessity of excluding all Persons whatsoever excepting the Natives only from being concerned therein, and we accordingly

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88. We have taken your Plan for conducting the Salt Trade, as contained in Your Proceedings of the 8th Septemr. 1766 into our most serious consideration, and having revised all that we and you have wrote, on the Subject of the Inland trade in general, and of Salt in particular, we are the more convinced of the absolute necessity of excluding all Persons whatsoever excepting the Natives only from being concerned therein, and we accordingly



hereby ratify and confirm the Orders We gave in our Letters of the 29th February and 17th May 1767 that no Company's Servant, Free Merchant, or any European, shall in any mode or shape what soever either by themselves or Agents directly or indirectly Trade in or be concerned in carrying on an Inland Trade in Salt, Beetle Nut, Tobacco or in any other Articles produced and consumed in the Country, and such Trade is absolutely abolished [ ] a final end to, agreeable to our beforementioned orders [ ] further if any of the before described Persons, shall directly or indirectly carry on or be concerned in such Inland Trade, or in farming the Callaries or making Salt, if a Company's Servant he is to be immediately dismissed the Company's Service, and from all others the Company's Protection is to be forthwith withdrawn

89 Having thus prohibited our Servants from being concerned in the Inland Trade, the Allowance of one and an eighth P Cent, Commission on the [Durance?] Revenues settled by you on the Governor for relinquishing all share in the Salt Trade is absolutely to determine and cease upon the first day of September 1767

90 Past Experience has so impressed us with the Idea of the necessity of confining our Servants and Europeans residing under our Protection, within the Ancient Limits of our Export and Import Trade, that we look on every innovation in the Inland trade as an [intrusion] on the natural right of the Natives of the Country, who now more particularly claim our Protection, and we esteem it as much our duty to maintain this Barrier between the two Commercial Rights, as to defend the Provinces from Foreign Invasions

91 Our Principal Object being the ease and convenience of the Natives, we have considered in what manner important trade in Salt can be carried on, so as to apply the whole Country with this material necessary [ ] life, on the easiest Terms and least liable to Oppression

92 For this purpose we direct that the Salt Trade be laid open to the Natives in general under the following Regulations vizt that all the Callaries or Salt Pans within the Company's Jurisdiction in the Calcutta Purgunnahs and Company's Lands and the Provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong be put up to Public Sale at their respective Capitals and sold to the best bidder, five Callaries in each Lot, and that no Person be allowed to take more than thirty Lots, which we judge will enable him to make about Forty five or Fifty thousand Buzar Maunds of Salt in the year, and that two Months Notice be given all over the Country

before the Sale begins and all Europeans are hereby expressly prohibited from being bidders at such Sales or holding any of the Salt Works in their hands either directly or indirectly.

93. If there are any Callaries under the Jurisdiction of the Nabob's Government, the same Method is to be recommended to the Administration at Moorshedabad.

94. It is represented to us that the Salt made in every part of the Country except what is necessary for the consumption of the Districts where it is produced should be carried to and Landed at Rajah Barey and a Creek or small River opposite to Barnagore<sup>9</sup> and the People of the Country to make their purchases there, and pay a Duty on all Salt carried from thence at such Rate as will, upon the nearest Estimation you can possibly m[.....] produce to the Revenue £100,000 at least, and not exceeding £120,000 P Annum—The Amount being in this manner ascertained it will be easy to settle how many Sicca Rupees P. 100 Buzar Maunds it will amount to, and the Duty is to be rated accordingly—Could we from any of your Registers have learned what Quantity of Salt is made and consumed in the Country, we might then have had sufficient Grounds to have proceed on, to settle in this Letter with precision the Duty, but not having such Information must leave it to you to cause it to be adjusted in the [before] mentioned manner.

95. If besides the above there are many other Places [.....] which Salt may pass up the Country in any of the Provinces you are to conform to the intention of this Order with respect to such Places.

96. That on Payment of the above duty to the Country Collectors, the Purchaser is to receive a Dustuck to carry his Salt to any part of the Country he chooses, free from all other Duties the like duty is to be levied on all Salt carried by Land [...] the Pacht Passes<sup>10</sup> from the Countries of Burdwan, Midnapore and other Places.

97. The Collecting the said Duty we conceive will fall [under?] the Orders of the Government of Moorshedabad and will be accounted for in the Revenues of the Dewannee.

98. That all makers of Salt be obliged to deliver in every Year, an Account of the Quantity of Salt, they have made and at what Places the same has been landed which must appear upon the Face of your Proceedings.

99. If any Boats are found smuggling of Salt, the same to be confiscated to the Government, Boat and Salt which will prevent

the Owners of the Boats from receiving any Salt, that has not paid the duty, and that notice of the same be published all over the Country

100 That all foreign Salt landed in Bengal pay the before mentioned duty, or more if it shall be found necessary, for the encouragement of the manufacturers of Salt in Bengal.

101 To prevent all abuse of the English Influence, we think [it?] proper to enjoin, and the same is accordingly to be made known [in] the most Public Manner, that any Boat having Salt on board, hoisting English Colours or Pretending to an English Dustom, should be liable to Confiscation, together with the Cargo, and the Nabob's [Men?] will seize the same as forfeited to the Government

102 Having established these Regulations for the Salt Trade, we now confirm our Orders for the Prohibition of our Servants engaging in all other Inland Trade in Articles produced and consumed in the Country, save only such Articles as are for exportation by Shipping to foreign Market, which will be intitled to an English Dustom, as part of the export Trade within the intention of the Phirmaund, and here we remark with some surprize in the Committee's proceedings of the 22nd October, that Beetlenut and Tobacco are among those Articles, which is contrary to the Spirit of the Phirmaund and the Tenor of our Orders

103 The Duties to be collected on the other Inland Trade will fall under the direction of the Administration at Moorshedabad, in which you will recommend the same attention to the good of the Natives, as we have in these Regulations for the Salt Trade

104 We hope this Freedom of Trade will be the means of keeping Salt at a low Price, but if ever it should be sold at the Places we have limited at or above One Hundred and Forty Sicca Rupees for one hundred Buzar Maunds, including the Duty, we shall esteem it too high a Price for the Natives to [purchase?] and we do expect, that under your influence, and that of the Moorshedabad Administration, the [price?] never exceeds the said One Hundred and forty Sicca Rupees unless in the case of some general Calamity, for we had [ratified?] the Duty shou'd be diminished, than Salt should exceed that Price

105 As the Trade of our Servants is to be confined [to?] the Articles of Import and Export only in such they shall be considerably affected by the great demands for extending the Company's Investments, and considering the great increase of Business in which our principal Servants are necessarily engaged, and which demand

[.....] their utmost care and attention. we are come to a Resolution to give them a reasonable encouragement [.....] exert themselves with Zeal and Alacrity in their several Departments, but which they are to look upon as a [.....] Gift from the hands of their Employers offered to them annually, so long as the present Revenues shall remain with the Company, and their behaviour shall continue to merit such a reward. we therefore hereby Order and direct—

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106. That you draw out an Annual Account [of the?] Sums received from the Duannee deducting thereout [.....] stipulated Payments to the King and the Nabob, and the Allowances to the Nabob's Ministers. also of the Revenues of the Provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore, Chittagong and the Calcutta Purgunnahs from which are to be deducted Lord Clive's Jaghire and the Ordinary charges of Collection.

107. Upon the amount of the said Nett Revenues you are hereby Indulged to draw a Com'ission of two and an half P Cent.

108. The Sum which shall be the produce of the said two and a half P Cent is to be divided into one hundred Parts or Shares, which Parts or Shares are to be appropriated in the following manner vizt.

The Governor is to have . . . . .	Thirty one Shares
The Second in Council . . . . .	Four Shares and half
The rest of the Select Committee not having a Chiefship, each . . . . .	Three Shares and half
The rest of the Council not having a Chief each . . . . .	One Share and half.

109. For it is our meaning and directions that Chief of Cossimbuzar Patna, Dacca and Chittagong are to have any Proportion of the said Shares.

110. Being convinced that the Employs of Resident at the Durbar and Chief of Cossimbuzar cannot from the Importance and Extent of the Business of each Department be properly executed by one Person, we therefore direct that they be from this time forward separated, and that some other Member of the Council be appointed to the said Chiefship, we do not make this Regulation from any failure of Attention on the Part of Mr. Sykes, with whose Conduct, we are perfectly satisfied.

111. And in consideration of the extraordinary trouble and attention which the Resident at the Durbar must necessarily have in the due Execution of that important Post, we direct that he be allowed Four Shares and an half, but this is to be understood to

are such as put our Service on a more advantageous footing than any other Military Service in the World and gives them the prospect of improving their Fortunes by a gradual Progress.

117. After all the allowances are made to the Company's principal Civil and Military Servants before directed, a considerable proportion of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  P Cent Commission will remain unappropriated in[.....] therefore to encourage the rest of the Company's Military Officers, and to remove every Complaint a reduction of double Batta, we have thought proper to make them over and above their present established Pay the following Allowances by way of donation or Gratuity only, and which are to be paid them accordingly vizt.

To a Captain . . . . .	Three Shillings a day.
To a Lieutenant . . . . .	Two Shillings a day.
To an Ensign . . . . .	One Shilling a day.

but we must here observe to you, and accordingly direct that neither a Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel [.....] Major is to be allowed the three Shillings a day [.....] Captain of a Company, the Shares we have allotted them in the produce of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  P Cent upon the Revenues being in full for our donation or Gratuity as well for their being Captains as Field Officers and here it is proper to inform you that it is our positive Order and Directions that the double Batta be never restored to any of our Officers whatsoever.

118. We have now to add and we accordingly direct that the beforementioned Commission of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  P Cent do commence from the 1st day September 1767 but as we have before ordered that the Allowances made to the Governor of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  P Cent on the Duan[.....] Revenues is absolutely to determine and cease that day; we farther direct that from the said day of September last to the time of the arrival of these Advices, An Allowance of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  P Cent on the Company's Nett Territorial Revenues be made to be Governor, and that then the Sum arising from the remaining  $1\frac{3}{8}$  P Cent (which compleats the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  P Cent Commission) be proportioned among our principal Servants Civil and Military pro rata according to the respective Shares allotted them by our present Appointment, and you are to take notice that from and after your receiving these Dispatches, the amount of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  P Cent Commission is to be appropriated in the manner before directed.

119. From an Estimate we have made of the Amount and distribution of the Commission of the beforementioned  $2\frac{1}{2}$  P Cent we find that a considerable Sum will still remain unappropriated. This Surplus is to be carried to the Company's Credit under the head of unappropriated Commission, until you shall receive further Orders from us, concerning the disposition of it.

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120 Although we have thus extended our generosity to the Company's Military Servants the late Mutiny in the Army is of too great Importance for us to {on?} taking notice of it

121 We were held in anxious Suspence from the first notice of the Mutiny in the Army, till we heard of the final Suppression of it, in which we cannot sufficiently commend the Spirited and Soldierlike [ ] of the Field Officers, and we direct you to assure them that their Behaviour has given us great satisfaction and will entitle them to every mark of our favour we ascribe it to their Activity, and to the well[timed?] Severity of the Courts Martials, that it was so suddenly and effectually suppressed

122 We will enlarge no further on this disagreeable Subject, in hopes that those Officers who were engaged in it have a just Sense of their Error, and will endeavour by their future behaviour to retrieve our good Opinion, and let them know that whenever they think themselves aggrieved, they are to signify it in an humble manner to the Governor or Commanding Officer, it will then stand upon your Records and come under our Observation

123 You judge very right in sending home all the Officers who are dismissed from our Service, you must always observe that rule, and be very attentive to prevent their being received into the Service of either the European or Country Powers

124 In looking over your Account of Coinage we observe the amount to be very great we desire a particular Statement of the Profits accruing to the Company, to the Governor and the Mint Master, all Gold and Silver, and on all recoinage we require also, an explanation of the terms Nadrys, Crom, Coppree and several other Names unintelligible to us You will also obtain a Statement of the Coinage of the several Mints in the three Provinces being desirous to trace from thence the quantity of Gold, Silver and foreign Rupees that are brought into them

125 As we have often expressed our desire that one Species of Rupees only should be current in the Provinces, we desire to have it explained to us whence it proceeds that Arcot Rupees should be the only Currency in several parts of the Province and whether you cannot by degrees establish the Currency of those of our own Mint

126 We have drawn upon you by this Ship, in the under mentioned Bills of Exchange in Consequence of Resolution mentioned in our General Letter of the 2[ ] Novemr 1766, at the rate of 2s 1d for the Current Rupee 30 days sight vizt

	C. Rs.	£ str.
One Sett for Current Rupees Nine hundred and Sixty Paya. to Mr. Charles Ingram for pounds Sterling One hundred rec'd of Mr. John Ingram dated 7th September 1767	960	100
One Sett for Current Rupees four thousand eight hundred Paya. to Mr. Alexr. Van Rixtell for Pounds Sterling five hundred rece'd of Mr. John Van Rixtell dated 11th Novemr. 1767	4800	500
		<hr/> £600

We are

Your Loving Friends

Thos. Rous/Thos. Saunders/Geo. Dudley/Pere. Cust./Heny. Savage/Rob. Jones/John Manship/F. W. Barrington/Luke Scrafton/John Roberts/J. Pardoe/Hy. Crabb Boulton/John Stephenson/J. Creswicke/G. Colebrooke/Ja: Cockburn/Ben. Booth/W. Cruttenden/Geo. Wombwell/Edw. Wheler.

London

20th November 1767.

## 8

### LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1767

*New rules concerning appointment of Surgeons—announcement of an intention to appoint several cadets for military service in Bengal.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1. The Ship Admiral Watson sailed from Plymouth on the 23rd of November with our General Letter to you and another to the Select Committee both dated the 20th of the said Month Duplicates and Triplicates whereof accompany this by the Valentine and Verelst, which with the Ship Kent consigned to you, and the Clive for Coast and China are now under dispatch.

2. As the abovementioned three Ships proceed so soon after

the Admiral Watson we shall defer any further Remarks and Directions until a future dispatch

3 The Ships Verelst and Kent will call first at the Island Madeira to take in One hundred and fifty Pipes of Wine for your Presidency, which are to be shipped in equal proportions on those Ships by the Houses of Messrs Chambers and Company and Messrs Scott and Company who have our Positive directions to give all possible dispatch in that Service, their Advices and the Accounts they are to forward with them will acquaint you of the Particulars of their respective Consignments, and with respect to your Proceedings in regard to those Wines we have already given you the necessary directions in our said General Advices of the 20th November last

4 The Ships Verelst, Kent and Valentine having no Consignments for Fort St George will proceed directly to your Presidency for the particulars of their Cargoes, you are referred to the Invoices and Bills of Lading enclosed in the said Ships Packets

5 You have been already advised by the Admiral Watson that we determined to send out this Season a supply of Seventeen hundred Military Recruits for our Presidencies of Fort William and Fort St George, a proportion of which you will receive by these Ships the Verelst, Kent and Valentine agreeable to the Lists of their Names in the respective Packets to which therefore we refer

6 Many Applications have been already made and more are intended this Season by Persons who are desirous of proceeding to the East Indies as Surgeons to be provided for in the Company's Service at any of our Settlements where they may be wanted and approved of, and as we now use the precaution of not granting this Indulgence to any but such as produce proper testimonials of their skill in the Profession of Surgery, they are therefore to be provided for next after those who have been already recommended, if any such there are, and you will accordingly receive in the respective Ships Packets from time to time, Lists of the Names of such Surgeons

7 You will likewise receive in the same manner Lists of the Names of all such Persons to whom We grant Licences to reside in India to get their living in the Seafaring way and as Passengers or otherways

8 We intend to send this Season several Cadets for the Military Service at your Presidency, who are to be promoted next after those have succeeded to Commissions who have been already recommended by us if any such remain who are deserving We shall by a following Conveyance send you directions in what manner they are to rank,

in the mean time such as proceed by this Conveyance, a List of whose Names are in the Packet, are not to have Commissions, or, if you grant any, they are to be conditional only until you receive our said directions with respect to their rank.

We are

Your Loving Friends,

Thos. Rous/Thos. Saunders/Rob. Jones/Heny. Savage/Pere. Cust/F. W. Barrington/John Roberts/J. Manship/Ja. Cockburn/Peter Du Cane Junr./Edwd. Wheler/Ben. Booth/W. Cruttenden/Luke Scrafton/Hy. Crabb Boulton/J. Creswicke/J. Pardoe/William Snell/John Stephenson/Geo. Colebrooke/Geo. Dudley.

London 2nd December 1767.

## 9

### LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1768

*Commission constituting and appointing President and Governor and the rest of the Council—the institution of Select Committee confirmed—their jurisdiction and powers described.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last General Advices to you dated 20th of November last went in Triplicate by the Ships Admiral Watson, Valentine and Verelst. Since which we sent you a short Letter in Triplicate under date of the 2nd December by the Ships Valentine, Verelst and Kent.

2. You will receive this by the Ships Dutton and Queen now under Dispatch for the Island Theneriffe and thence to the Coast and Bay. These Ships proceed first to the Island Theneriffe to take in Two hundred Pipes of Vidonia Wine for the Coast and Bay, One hundred Pipes whereof are to be consigned to you on the Ship Dutton by Messrs. John Collogan and Sons whom we have directed to give all possible Dispatch in that Service and

forward to you Invoice and Bills of Lading with every other necessary Information respecting the said Consignment—We have already given you full Directions in our General Advices of the 20th November last for your own Proceedings in regard to the said Wine

3 The whole of our Consignments from hence on the Ships Dutton and Queen are for our Presidency at Bengal, the Particulars whereof you will be informed of by their respective Invoices and Bills of Lading enclosed in the Packets

4 Those Ships are notwithstanding to call first at Fort St George, the Queen to deliver to Vidoma Wine to be sent thither from the Island Theneriffe and both both Ships to land the Packets and Passengers also the Recruits if they shall be more wanted there than at Bengal, or to receive any Additional Number that may be required for our Service at your Presidency, and as this will employ but a short Space, we have directed that no time is lost therein

5 In order to give further Aid of Tonnage for bringing home the large Investments expected from China we have taken up the Ships Ponsborne Captain John Payne and Asia Captain Robert Preston each of the Burthen of 499 Tons carrying 26 Guns and 99 Men upon the same Terms and Conditions as the other Ships of this Season—We have appointed the Ponsborne to proceed first to Fort St George to assist in transporting the great Number of Military Officers and Recruits proceeding thither this Season, and when she has executed that Service she is to be dispatched with all possible Expedition to China

6 The Ship Duke of Richmond having parted her Cables in the Night of the 25th December, run ashore at Gravesend, but was happily got off after having grounded above Forty eight Hours, and although we are assured the Ship makes no Water, nevertheless as the Cargo was on board, and it appearing highly imprudent to suffer her to proceed without a proper Examination, the necessary Measures are in hand, that the Ship may be docked accordingly—As this Misfortune must of course retard the Ship's proceeding for some time if an opportunity offered you will do well to advise the West Coast Presidency thereof that any apprehensions from the Duke of Richmond's not appearing there so soon as expected may be removed

7 By the Ship Dutton we send a Commission under the Company's Seal and an attested Copy thereof in the Queen's Packet constituting and appointing the President and Governour and the rest of the Council at our Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, in

the order and in the manner they are hereunder directed and described vizt.

Harry Verelst Esqr.	..	President and Governour.
John Cartier Esqr.	..	Second in Council and to succeed to the Government, in case of a Vacancy therein by the Decease or otherwise of Mr. Verelst.
Colonel Richard Smith	..	Third, but not at any time to rise higher in the said Council than Third.
Mr. Francis Sykes	..	Fourth.
Mr. Richard Becher	..	Fifth.
Mr. James Alexander	..	Sixth.
Mr. Claud Russell	..	Seventh.
Mr. Thomas Rumbold	..	Eight.
Mr. William Aldersey	..	Ninth.
Mr. Thomas Kelsall	..	Tenth.
Mr. Charles Floyer	..	Eleventh.
Mr. Alexander Campbell		Twelfth and last of the said Council.

8. For the Reasons given in the 28th Paragraph of our General Letter of the 17th May 1766, Colonel Smith is to continue to have a constant Seat in Council, but We direct that upon his Decease or coming away no other Military Officer is to succeed him in the Council, but the Commanding Officer for the time being is to be consulted upon Military Affairs only, at which times he is to have a Seat and Voice at the Board as Third in Council.

9. We have experienced such great Advantages from the Establishment of a Select Committee, that although the ends for which it was first instituted and happily obtained, by the establishing of Peace, Tranquility and Subordination, yet we find the Nature of those important Charges which now fall under the Management of our Servants require they should be conducted by a small Number, and we therefore confirm the Select Committee; And their Department and Powers are to be as follow.

10. They are to conduct every thing that relates to the Country Government, either with respect to the Duannee or the Company's Political Interests with the neighbouring Powers, together with the Military Operations depending thereon, they are to negotiate with the Soubah and the Country Powers, but to conclude no Treaty of Commerce or Alliance without the Approbation of the Council at large They are to superintend the Collection of the Revenues arising from the Duannee, but without the Power of disbursing them; nor do the Revenues arising from the Company's other

Possessions fall under their jurisdiction, their general superintending power ceased with the Abuses that gave rise to that Power with which they were entrusted, and all other Branches of the Company's Affairs fall under the General Department The Members of this Committee are to stand conformable to Lord Clive's Appointment vizt

Harry Verelst Esqr	President.
John Cartier Esqr	Second
Colonel Richard Smith	Third, but not to rise higher
Mr Francis Sykes	Fourth
Mr Richard Becher	Fifth

11 We have in the foregoing Paragraph directed that the *Military Operations shall be conducted under the Orders of the Select Committee* but the supreme Military Power is vested in the Board at large conformable to the usual Practice—We have already in our Letter of the 24th December 1765 Paragraph 74, expressed our Sentiments on the Nature of your Powers over the Military, not only that it is supreme but that you may delegate your Authority to any Civil Servant you please and that the highest Officer in our Army must obey that Civil Servant in the same manner he is bound to obey the Orders of the President and Council, and upon my Doubt or Disobedience or indeed for whatever Cause may appear sufficient to the Majority of the Council, they may dismiss any Officer be his Rank what it will without assigning such Officer any other Reason but your own Pleasure, reserving the Justification of your Conduct to us from whom you derive your Authority, and to whom alone you are accountable

12 Upon the Decease or Coming away of Colonel Smith no other Military Officer is to succeed him in the Select Committee but the commanding Officer for the time being is to be consulted upon Military Affairs only, at which time he is to have a Seat and Voice at the Board as Third in the Committee

13 We have in our Letters of last Season given you our Sentiments, so fully upon the Misbehaviour of our Junior Servants upon the occasion of the calling the Four Gentlemen from Madrass to be Members in your Council, that we have nothing further to observe than that it is a matter of real Satisfaction to us to find by the Letters from Lord Clive and the Select Committee, they are brought to act and think reasonably, and that this is an evident favourable Change in their Conduct and Disposition—We hope this will continue so as to merit our future favour as we still look upon them in a State of Probation

14 Mr William Majendie one of our said Junior Servants



who was dismissed from his Office of Secretary, and suspended from the Company's Service by Lord Clive and the Select Committee, for the unbecoming and undutiful part he took on the said occasion, as fully stated in the Said Committee's Proceedings on the 20th January 1766, having upon his Return to England, humbly applied to be reinstated in the Service, We have, in consideration of his fully acknowledging his imprudent Behaviour and making the strongest Professions of Fidelity and Obedience in every part of his future Conduct, been induced to grant his Request, especially as Lord Clive speaks well of his in all other Respects in his Letter to us under Date of the 1st of February 1766;—However We have given him a Reprimand, and acquainted him that our future favour will depend upon his making good to your Satisfaction his Professions of Amendment.—He was informed likewise that upon his Arrival he is to make a proper and due Acknowledgment of his Misbehaviour in Writing to you, also to the Select Committee, which you are to see done and cause the same to be entered upon your diary as well for our Information as by way of Example to the rest of the Company's Servants.—When this is performed to your Satisfaction, he is to be restored to his Rank in the Service, which upon his Arrival will be that of a Factor.—Copies of his Letters of Submission to us come a Number in the Ships Dutton and Queen's Packets which we have thought proper to send for your Information.

15. We have drawn upon you by these Ships the under-mentioned Bill of Exchange at the Rate of Two Shillings and one Penny P Current Rupee and Thirty Days sight vizt.

One Sett for Current Rupees Four Thousand	
eight hundred payable to Mr. John Mosden	
Hatch for Pounds Sterling Five hundred re-	
ceived of Mrs. Elizabeth Hatch dated the Rupees	£
6th January 1768 . . . . . 4800	500

We are,

Your Loving Friends

Thos. Rous/Thos. Saunders/Geo. Dudley/F. W. Barrington/  
J. Creswicke/Ben. Booth/J. Pardoe/Peter Du Cane Junr./  
Ja. Cockburn/Pere. Cust/Edwd. Wheler/John Roberts/  
Luke Scrafton/Geo. Wombwell/G. Colebrooke/W. Crutten-  
den/Hy. Crabb Boulton/Heny. Savage/Rob. Jones/John  
Stephenson/Geo. Cuming/William Snell.

London the 12th January 1768.

*Enclosure 1*

FROM W. MAJENDIE TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

*(14 October 1767)*

Hon'ble Sirs

The Season approaching for the Departure of your Ships to India, I take the Liberty of addressing you on the Subject of my Readmission into your Service, which I humbly presume to Solicit, after offering to your Sincere Acknowledgement of my imprudent conduct on the Occasion of my suspension, I am indeed Hon'ble Sirs truly mortified and concerned that I should in any Instance have incurred the Displeasure, either of Yourselves or of the Gentlemen Your representatives abroad, as I can on the Contrary with strictest Truth assure you it had ever been my most Steady purpose and Wish to recommend myself to the Approbation, of both, I shall only humbly trust that my general Deportment will appear to confirm this to Your satisfaction and that in the particular now before you, You will be therefore favorably pleased to acquit me in your Opinions of any intentional Offence, however I may have been misled in Point of Judgement, And I conclude with further assuring you that the just Sense I should entertain of the Lenity you might be now disposed to shew me would ever remain indelible and be an Additional Inducement for the utmost exertion of any endeavour to conciliate your future Favor, and prove myself truly

London the 14th October, 1767

*Enclosure 2*

FROM W. MAJENDIE TO ROBERT JAMES, SECRETARY  
TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

*(7 December 1767)*

Sir,

In Obedience to the Commands of the Hon'ble the Committee of Correspondence, Signified to me by Your Letter of the 1st instant I transmit you the enclosed Answers to those Questions of my Examination at Bengal which I then declined replying to, and hope that the Gentlemen in the Consideration of the Matter, will be favorably pleas'd to impute my not Answering them at First to the Embarrassment which a Sudden and unexpected Summons

before the Committee on such an Occasion must necessarily produce, rather than to any Principles of Disrespect or Disobedience, which I really am not Conscious of having in the least intended: At the same Time I humbly trust the Explicitness I have observed in Order to give all Possible Satisfaction in these Answers with the Sincere Acknowledgements made of my own Particular Misconduct, will remove any obstacle to my Reinstatement in the Hon'ble Companys Service and the good opinion of my Employers, which it Shall be my Study and Ambition to merit by my Zeal, Fidelity and Obedience in every Part of my future Conduct.

London 7th December, 1767.

*Enclosure 3*

W. MAJENDIE'S ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS PUT  
TO HIM AT HIS EXAMINATION

(7 December 1767)

*1st Question.*—Do You know of an Agreement to treat Messrs Russell, Alderey Kelsall, & Floyer on their Arrival with Contempt, Disrespect, or Neglect?

*Answer.*—Upon the first Intelligence received from Madrass of the Invitation of those Gentlemen, the Servants at Bengal, thinking themselves all much injur'd both in the Measure itself, as Contrary to the usual Rules of the Service, and likewise in the Motives They learnt were assigned for it of their general Incapacity or Depravity, which did not appear to them Sufficiently grounded, went immediately as may naturally be Supposed, in Quest of one another, to communicate their Sentiments, and confer on the proper Means of Redress, without any Occasion for being particularly convened for that purpose In these accidental Meetings together, all concurr'd in the Necessity of a Remonstrance to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, and it was at the same time the general Sense, that there wou'd be no impropriety in declining the Intercourses of private Society with the Gentlemen concerned, while the Servants failed not in the proper Discharge of their Duty to their Masters, nor in the Respect & obedience due to their Representatives in their Public Capacities: This was meant equally with Regard to the Members of the Select Committee, & the Gentlemen from Madrass, which latter were not to be more particularly "treated with Contempt, Disrespect or Neglect" And the General Concurrence of Sentiment render'd any further formal Agreement unnecessary as none other did indeed Subsist.—For myself, I have already made

an humble & Sincere Acknowledgement of my Error in this Matter, which I take this further opportunity to Repeat; And have only to hope, that it will be believed I was betrayed into by the Warmth of Youth alone and too great a degree of Sensibility on the Occasion, arising from a Consciousness of having ever meant & labored to recommend myself in a particular manner. To which I hope I may without Imputation of Vanity, or other Misconstruction, and only as a further Apology for my own Feelings, be permitted to add, my having recently had the Happiness to receive an honorable Testimony of Approbation not only from my Superiors abroad, but likewise from my Hon'ble Employers.

*2nd Question.*—Do You know of an Agreement to decline visiting the President or any Member of the Select Committee, & not to accept of their Invitations?

*Answer.*—I have been unavoidably led to Speak to the Subject of this Question in my Answer to the First wherein I have explained the Intentions of the Servants, as well towards, these Gentlemen of the Committee, as those from Madrass, with the Nature of Agreement respecting them, Such as it really was: I must therefore beg to stand referr'd to that Answer in Reply to this Question.

*3rd Question.*—Was it Agreed that any Particular Member of the Select Committee shou'd be exempted from this Slight, & who was that Member?

*Answer.*—Mr. Sumner was to be exempted, in Consequence of Information from Madrass, that he had not been accessory to the Measure Complain'd of.

*4th Question.*—Was not an Agreement of Secresy enter'd into, and was not You one of those who enter'd into Such Agreement?

*Answer.*—Such an Agreement, respecting the Remonstrance, and 'till Such time at it shou'd compleated, was enter'd into, upon a general Apprehension that Means might be us'd to suppress our Design, if publicly avowed. It is at the same time necessary to observe that the Nature of this Agreement was the same as those before spoken of, Consisting only in the immediate Agreement of Opinions, And it is evident that Nothing further than is here represented cou'd be meant by it, from the Introduction to the Remonstrance expressly mentions the Intention of Communicating it to the Board, & transmitting it thro' them as the proper Channel.

W Majendie

London the 7th Decr. 1767.

FROM SECRETARY TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS  
TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL,  
FORT WILLIAM

(20 January, 1768)

GENTLEMEN,

I have received the Command of the Court of Directors, to acquaint you, that since the Valentine proceeded on her Voyage from the Downes, they have received information, of that Ship having been on shore between Grave end and the Downes, they therefore direct that an Enquiry be made by the proper Officers at your Presidency, and reported to you, whether any Damage was received, that you may be well satisfied of the Valentine's being in a proper Condition to receive her homeward bound Carry before any part thereof is put on board.

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most Obedient  
Humble Servant  
Robt. James.  
Secy.

East India House  
London the 20th January 1768.

II

LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1768

*Bengal's pilot service to be put upon the best footing—  
instructions concerning imports, investments, relations with the  
French and the Dutch—concern for the silk winders—appointment  
of Rennell as Surveyor General approved—remarks on the estab-  
lishment of gold currency—details of new military establishments—  
granting of bills of exchange upon the Company forbidden—*

*Company's servants not to supply materials for Company's works—  
Bombay to be paid 1½ lakhs annually from Bengal revenues*

OUR President and Council of Fort William in Bengal

1 We have already wrote you this Season under dates of the 20th of November and 2nd of December last and 12th January a Triplicate of the letter you will receive by the Ship Ankerwyke

2 Under dates of the 20th November and 12th January we likewise wrote to your Select Committee and shall further address them herewith—The instructions directions and Observations contained in our Advices to the said Committee are upon their being made know (sic) to you to meet with the same attention and obedience as if they were immediately addressed to you as President and Council

3 Our Secretary wrote you a short Letter on the 20th January to advise the Ship Valentine had run ashore in her way to the Downs and directing on Enquiry whether she had received any damage thereby

4 For the Arrival and departure of our Shipping since our last Advices thereof you are referred to the List inclosed

5 We shall now proceed to give such further informations and directions for your Conduct in our Affairs and make such Observations upon your Advices received in the course of last Season as we find necessary, all which will be arranged under the usual heads And

#### *First of Shipping*

6 In our Letter of the 3rd March 1758 we gave you some particular Orders with regard to the management of the Marine at your Presidency, to which we think proper to add what follows and shall expect a strict compliance thereto

7 The Pilot Service is so very essential to be put upon the best footing that it possibly can be, both for our Interest and the Private Trade of India, that we have been induced upon this principle to take it into consideration, and have agreed to provide some Young Seamen under the denomination of Volunteers here to be sent to your Presidency, to be brought up on board the Pilot Sloops to rise to be Mates and Masters according to their Merits to Rank as they are put down in the List now sent you—They



12 We approve your humane determination to send the Cuddalore Schooner in search of the distressed Survivors of the Crew of the Ship Earl Temple unfortunately wrecked on an Island in the China Seas in June 1763 in consequence of the Information communicated by the China Council from those unhappy Sufferers arrived from Cochun China at Canton—And it was well judged in case of disappointment in the proposed Relief to order the Vessel on a Survey of the Shoals and Island where the Accident happened for the employ of our Vessels in effecting Discoveries of such apparent utility to Navigation must always merit approbation especially at such times as they can be spared from other more material Services

13 Having made a very strict enquiry into the Proceedings of Capt George Hepburn of the Ship Falmouth, it appeared as well from your Advices as his own Confession that great quantities of Illicit Trade had been taken on board in the Channel and at St Iago consisting of about 200 Pipes of Wine Iron Steel and Bales of Cloth—But on his refusal to discover of whom those Goods were brought or any thing further relating thereto we have besides dismissing him our Service and rendering him incapable of ever serving the Company in future agreed to prosecute him either in the Court of Chancery or the Exchequer for a discovery thereof being firmly resolved that all so notoriously offending shall feel the Severity of our resentment We have also resolved on a very particular examination into the causes of the Loss of that Ship whereby such a number of People to our inexpressible concern unfortunately perished

14 Upon a very attentive Scrutiny on the information received of 33 Pipes of Wine and 30 Bales supposed to be Cloth having been clandestinely received on board the Pigot off the Island Theneriffie in March 1766 where in recourse to and due consideration was had on the Advices both from you and the Presidency of Fort St George relating thereto, it did not appear that the said Bales belonged to Capt Richardson or that he was privy to any clandestine Trade being taken on board his Ship—But deeming him highly blamable for his intentions for so doing as is alleged in Mr Mackays Affidavit and for not acquainting our Presidency of Fort St George that the above mentioned Bales were on board as soon as it came to his knowledge—We have severely reprimanded him for the same which it is hoped will according to promise prevent him from engaging in any such unwarrantable behaviour in future

15 We approve your dismissing from our Service Mr James Huggins Surgeon of the Snow Mercury, who appeared upon the



Enquiry made at Vizagapatam, to be the Owner of the Illicit Trade concealed on board her—And upon our review of the Proceedings in that Enquiry it appearing Mr. Robert Fairfull the Second Mate refused to give evidence upon Oath relating to the said Goods before the Chief and Council there and persisted in such his Refusal in contempt of our Orders, we have also dismissed him our Service and disabled him therefrom in future.

*Secondly of Goods from Europe or from  
one Part of India to another*

16. We have been informed that the Brass Amusettes which have been used in the King's Service were not made to carry so large a Ball as a two Pounder, and having great reason to believe the Light Brass three Pounder Field Pieces must answer the purpose much better, we decline sending the forty brass Amusettes of three, two and an half and two Pounds mentioned in your last Indent.

17. We have ordered the Light Brass twenty four Pounders, you desire, and they will be sent on some of the Ships proceeding this year if possible.

18. We have not complied with your Indent for Match, Copper Ladles and Worms as there appear large Remains of those Articles in your Warehouse and we sent great quantities last year nor will any Seven Inch Shells be sent as it does not appear there is either a Mortar or Howitzer of the nature amongst your Stores.

19. The Locks for the Muskets are all made to one Pattern, and the different parts as much alike as possible in order that one Old Lock may be repaired with the parts of another.

20. Your Account Sales should describe the different Sorts of Copper in the same manner as they stand in the Invoice and you should likewise mention therein the Ships whereby it is received, such Informations being necessary to guide us in supplying You with the proper Sortments.

21. The Hats and Shoes for the Military this Season, as well as the last, are provided by different makers who have orders to distinguish their Goods by their several Marks in order that it may be ascertained whether any and which are entitled to the preference, Twenty dozen of Shoes of a Superior Quality for the use of the Officers are also sent this season by way of further Trial—You must therefore make the proper Enquiry and advice us which are entitled to the preference amongst the former, and likewise how the latter will answer,

22 We observe there are several Articles which stand on your Account Remains in the Import Warehouse from Year to Year, owing as we suppose to their not being vendible, at least not to any Advantage—We would have all such Goods, rather than continue longer in Warehouse exposed to damage immediately sold at Outcry for the most they will produce and it must be a standing Rule in future whenever any perishable Goods have been two or three times put up to sale and will not go off, to dispose of them in the manner above directed

23 It is so extremely inconvenient to us to send Masts and yards on board those Ships carrying Recruits, that it is very uncertain whether we can send Supplies of this Kind in future—You must therefore reserve those now sent entirely for the use of the Company's Shipping, and our several Presidencies must use all possible endeavors to procure proper Masts in India We strongly recommended to you last Season to prosecute the Scheme of procuring Firs for Masts and Spars from the Morung Country and expected to have received this year your report of the Trial thereof but as your Advices are entirely silent on that subject, we again direct that you pursue every possible means that may tend to a discovery of proper Timbers for this purpose and we hope you will succeed to our wishes in this object, either in the Morung, Batteah or Chittagong Countries

24 We observe you have resolved not to Indent to Bombay for Coir Cordage in consequence of the proposal of your Master Attendant to Contract for it at one Rupee per Maund cheaper than that received from Tellicherry—This being a breach of our positive Orders in the 150th Paragraph of the General Letter to you of the 3rd March 1768 forbidding the Master Attendant should be able to supply this Article cheaper than our Servants at Tellicherry and Anjengo who we suppose purchase it at the first hand Invoiced it to us at Prime Cost and Charges, unless it is inferior in quality, which would prove much dearer in the end

25 We shall continue to direct our Presidency of Bombay to apply to you for a supply of their Occasions for Money, and as we now send orders thither for discharging their Debts at Interest their Demands will be much larger than in former Years, you are nevertheless to comply therewith and we shall earnestly recommend to that Presidency to procure Draughts on you for as large a Part there of as possible, but if they should not be able to get Bills for the whole amount, you are to make up the Deficiency in Specie.

26. We have directed our Presidency at Fort Marlborough to apply to you and our President and Council at Fort St. George for what Treasure they may require for their various occasions and they are likewise ordered to continue to Indent to you and our other Settlements for such Articles as they may be in want of, and you are to supply them accordingly so far as lies in your Power.

27. The Governor and Council of St. Helena having informed us that the Beef and Pork which you sent thither by the Duke of Albany proved very bad and much dearer than what we sent them from hence, You are therefore not to send any more Salt Provisions to that Island without our further Orders.

### *Thirdly of Investments*

28. We now already signified our approval of your measures for the extension and improvement of your Investment and we shall rely on a[.....] continue of the same Vigilant attention to enlarge the Provision of every Article to the utmost degree possible.

29. We now send a List of the Investment to be provided at your Presidency for the Ships destined for Coast and Bay this Season in which we have made several Remarks and observations for your guidance in the provision of the several Articles, to which you are to give all due attention.

30. You will observe, for the sake of Precision, we have repeated the same Remarks under several different Articles, the Complaint therein of your inattention to the Orders we have given ever since the Year 1760, as to the sortments of the Sprigs, will be enforced with a stronger Censure, if the cause is not removed in future—We observe with surprize that your flowered Goods are ever the same, whereas the greatest recommendation here is novelty—We now send you a set of Patterns, not for your Manufacturers to Copy exactly, but to furnish them in general with a Taste more adapted to this part of the world.

31. Upon a review of the reasons for the encrease and decrease of your Investments received from Calcutta and Dacca, we observe that the great deficiency of many of your Articles arise from the want of a sufficient number of proper Looms, and due encouragement to the Weavers without which we are sensible that our Investment cannot be encreased, much less improved—We therefore now send you a List in the Packet of those Articles that will though procured at the considerable Advance set against them still answer our purpose and we hope you will hereby be enabled to give

such encouragement as will remove every difficulty, and give us a due preference

32 We further observe your reasons for the deficiency in Cossaes Cogmaria line FBB POSC and Humhums Superfine SFHM,<sup>1</sup> is owing to a Scarcity of thread of a proper quality, we therefore recommend it to you to give all the encouragement in your power to the manufacturers of thread to induce them to procure a sufficient quantity thereof to fulfil our orders for these Articles are much in demand here

33 When an Article of our Investment is encreased beyond the ability of those usually employed in manufacturing it, every encouragement must be given that may induce workmen to engage in that Article though unaccustomed to it before—Goods manufactured thus by raw hands may at first fall short of your Muster, but as time may perfect those that are taken from their former employments, a suitable reward must be made them we therefore desire that you be extremely cautious how you reject such Goods as are above described and recommend that you contract for them at still lower Letters than you have hitherto made use of in your prizings

34 That the French and Dutch particularly the former should furnish the European Markets with a greater quantity of Fine and flowered goods in proportion to their other Assortments than you provide for us we are unable to account for, but the Latitude given you in the annext List of advance will we hope remedy this evil without giving foreign Companies (*sic*) the least umbrage

35 We approve your withdrawing our Servants from those Aurungs where they had been newly established, but think it was rather an improper Concession that you made to the French Chandernagore in giving them reason to suppose you did it on their Complaints —And here we must observe there appears an impropriety in your receiving Complaints directly from Foreigners which relate to the Country Government, which should as heretofore be addressed to the Nabob or his Ministers, as the Redress must flow from them and not from the Government at Calcutta

36 The resolution of your Select Committee for prohibiting the private purchase of the Company's Sortments of Raw Silk was very comendable and should a disinterested Zeal for our Service—It is in the encrease of this Article of our Investment that we chiefly depend for the bringing home our Revenues, the Importation being

Cons 26th May  
1766

Proceedings 27th  
Decr 1766

a national benefit and the Consumption more unlimited than that of the Manufactured Goods You must therefore continue to bestow the greatest attention to it—Mr. Verelst's Letter on the Burdwan Affairs points out that the Influence of Government may be exerted for the Encouragement of the growth of the Mulberry Trees, that and every other means must be thought of for the extension of this valuable Branch of our Trade.

37. And here we are led to approve your measure of allowing the Silk Winders an Advance of Wages to excite them to continue in our Employ, when several of them had been induced from that motive to engage in the Service of the French and Dutch, and we are pleased to observe this Encouragement with the methods taken to prevent their being defrauded by the Surdars had made these useful People content.

38. We are concerned to remark the Encrease in the Price of the Chittagong Manufactures which you impute to the advanced Price of the Necessaries of Life and to the Purchases of the French—We wish to have the causes thereof thoroughly investigated, for should it proceed from an extension of the Commerce and an influx of Specie value of Land and the Revenue should rise in proportion.

39. We desire you will send us the medium Price of Rice in the different Provinces for the last Ten Years and continue the same yearly.

*Fourthly of the Trade of India, Transactions with European Powers and Country Government*

40. We very much approve the spirit with which you proceed in opening a Trade with the Betteah Country.

41. We desire you will obtain the best intelligence you can whether a Trade can be opened with Napaul and whether Cloth and other European Commodities may not find their way from thence to Thibet, Lassa and the Western parts of China.

42. We gave you our Sentiments in the General Letter of the 17th May 1766 upon your permitting on or about the 21st June 1765 at the Request of Mr. Law de Lawriston Governor of the French Factory at Chandernagore a certain number of Europeans and Sepoys to be entertain at that place and the Settlements subordinate thereto, and also allowing them a Wall at Chandernagore such as they formerly had at Cossimbuzar and Twenty Pieces of Cannon, not

exceeding Six pounders for the purposes mentioned in your Advices to us, This Transactions having been justly and severely animadverted upon in the Course of the Parliamentary Proceedings in the last Sessions, as a dangerous cession hastily and improperly granted without his Majesty's consent and contrary to the Articles of the Treaty of Peace now subsisting between the two Nations, we found it very necessary to apply by a Memorial to the Earl of Shelburne one of His Majesty's Principal Secretary's of State to receive His Majesty's Instructions upon this Subject, in answer thereto his Lordship in a Letter dated the 27th January last has signified to us His Majesty's disapprobation of the said proceedings in the conclusion of which his Lordship says he has His Majesty's Commands to acquaint us, that he expects the Company shall keep a most watchful Eye on the Conduct and Proceedings of the French in Bengal so that upon the slightest appearance of any insidious Machination in consequence of the permission granted to them, we and our Servants in Bengal shall be ready to assert our right of withdrawing it, as we cannot set this matter in a clearer and fuller light than by referring to what has passed on the occasion we now enclose Copies of our Memorial to Lord Shelburne with references to the several Extracts therein mentioned and his Lordship's Answer to which all due obedience is to be paid, and you are hereby directed to give us from time to time an exact and particular Account not only of what may be any way relative to the said Transaction, but of every thing else that shall occur with the French wherein the observance or infringements of the Treaty between the two Nations may have the slightest concern.

43. Although we approve the spirit of your Conduct towards the Dutch upon their seizing the Sircar of the Gaut of Duan Gunge,<sup>3</sup> yet being a matter properly cognizable by the Country Government, the Resident at Burdwan should not himself have taken satisfaction, but obtained it through the Raja—You likewise went too far in threatening, if the Dutch refused to make proper submission for this Insult to withdraw their benefit of Trade in our Lands, the freedom of Trade of other European Powers should not upon any account be infringed, though at the same time we expect it should be reciprocal as well in their Lands as ours.

44. We take notice of the Complaints of the Dutch with respect to the Ophium (sic) Trade in which you mention that there has lately been a scandalous Monopoly of that Article, but do not explain how or in whose hands that Monopoly has been—You judged very properly in referring them to the Country Government and we repeat here what we said with respect to your dispute with the French in a

preceding Paragraph that the Nabob and his Ministers in whom the Civil Administration is vested are to take cognizance of all Complaints of this kind, and that the English are never to appear as Principals, nor even to pretend to an influence, but leave all such disputes as may arise in the Lands of the Dewanny to the Durbar at Moorshedabad and for such as may arise in the Burdwan Province to the Rajah and his Ministers, and to answer directly to no disputes but such as may happen in the Company's Lands round Calcutta.

*Fifthly of Fortifications, Buildings and Revenues*

45. When we consider that the New Fort has now been carrying on near Nine Years at an immense Expence, we are extremely discouraged to find the Completion of it so distant as it is represented to be by Lord Clive's Letter to the Select Committee.

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Janry. 1767.

46. We have from that Letter and for many other Reasons great Cause to suspect frauds and abuses or what is equally fatal to the Company great Neglect in carrying on those Works, we hope you will before this have either adopted Lord Clive's Plan of building by Contract or fallen into some mode of Conducting them on a more eligible Plan than what you have hitherto pursued.

47. It is not only the importance of having the Fortifications in a state of defence, we are also extremely solicitous to have the Governor reside and Company's Business carried on there entirely instead of having the different Offices dispersed about the Town in the manner they are at present, which we conceive will contribute much to the regularity and the dispatch of Business and the Works too will be better conducted under the Eye of the Governor.

48. Lord Clive has represented to us that the Barracks being very little used for the Military may at a trifling Expence be converted into Apartments for the Junior Servants, he also acquaints us what we do not learn from your Advices, that there is one large House already finished, we therefore recommend it to you to convert the latter into Offices and the former into Apartments for the Junior Servants with all Expedition, and that as soon as you remove from the Houses where the Business is at present conducted they be put up to Sale that their produce may ease us of part of the Expence of the new Buildings and the Rate of House Rent be reduced for the Inhabitants by adding to the Number of Houses.

49. We are displeased to see new purchases of Houses still going on, by your laying out 30000 Rupees for a House and Godowns,

for the Import Warehouse it is not only the expence that we  
complain of but it carries with it the idea of our Servants adopting  
Sentiments with respect to the New Fort very  
Genl Ltr from different from our intentions which are to have  
8th Novr 1766 Ia the whole of the Business carried on there and  
63 therefore you ought to have put up with a temporary inconvenience  
till Godowns could have been built rather than have gone into  
such an Expence We fear the Convenience of the Import Ware  
house Keeper in providing a house for him may have influenced  
this measure but to prevent the like in future you are to tender  
accomodations to all our Servants as fast as they can be got ready  
and if they decline residing in them the Company's Houses they  
inhabit are to be sold and if they persist in living out of the Fort  
it must be at their own Expence

50 The same Reasons occur in disapprobation of the additional  
Buildings to the Council Room we think that if you mean to conform  
to our Orders to have the business all Conducted  
Genl Ltr from in the New Fort you would rather submit to  
th March 1766 Pa the Temporary inconveniences that you have  
19 put up with for some Years past that subject us to such great  
expences all that we mean that it is our firm intention to have our  
Offices and Warehouses and the whole of the Company's Business  
carried on in the New Fort as fast as the Buildings can be finished

51 We do not mean to apply the above Rules to the  
Custom House which will be more properly  
Genl Ltr from situated at the Old Fort as being more in the  
28th Novr 1766 Pa Centre of the Town and more convenient for  
111 the Merchants to land their Goods

52 As we take it for granted the New Fort is by this Time  
perfectly in a state of defence we would recommend it to  
you to begin the Church which should be  
Genl Ltr from spacious and simplicity should be preferred  
th Jan'y 1766 Ia to Rich and Expensive Ornament  
16

53 We are well pleased that the Sepoys decline living in  
Barracks not only for the saving in the Expence but also that  
their Separation tends to prevent that Combination which some  
times arises from the frequent and sudden Opportunities of  
Communicating Sentiments People who are subject to discontents

54 Although we concur in Opinion with you of the Propriety  
of removing the Present Banksauls for the  
Genl Ltr from Greening of Ships on account of the damage  
Novr 1766 Ia [ ] it does to the Banks of the River, yet we  
cannot but testify our Surprise at the Estimate of the Expence







amounting to Rupees 32,4000 which appears to us a Sum vastly beyond the Object, if it is to answer no other purpose than merely

9th Febr. 1767. Careening, had that Sum comprehended a Dock

or any thing that tended to more general and Publick utility we might have approved of it—As we do not find the Subject pursued we hope you have not determined to carry it into execution, or if you have we shall expect to find better reasons to justify it than what now appear on your Proceedings.

55. We suppose you mean the Plan proposed to be for the benefit of private as well as the Company's Trade you must therefore see that the Private Trade do in some measure contribute to the Expence by fixing a Rate every Ship is to Pay for the Permission of Careening there.

56. We approve the Appointments conferred on Captain Rennell as Surveyor General and as we send out several Young

Genl. Lre. frm. 30th Mar. 1767 Pa. 17. Gentlemen for the Artillery who have been educated at the Royal Academy at Woolwich,

we would have you employ such of them in the Surveying Way—as show a talent for that branch—We shall be pleased to receive the Chart preparing by Captain Rennell but at the same time must observe we think his Charts should be first sent to us, and no Copies given but by our Permission a Rule hitherto unattended to, as Lord Clive and Mr. Vansittart are both in Possession of Captain Rennell's Survey of the different Provinces.

57. You did well to charge the Superintendant of the Roads to the Account of the Inhabitants—In all Regulations of the Police

Genl. Lre. frm. 28th Novr. 1766 Pa. 61. for the ease and convenience of the Public, the Expence, in this and every Country is born (*sic*)

by the Inhabitants, and the same Rule must be observed in every other Improvement you may think proper to make for their ease and advantage; we conceive these Affairs fall properly within the Jurisdiction of the Zemindarry.

58. We shall be anxious to know the effect of your measures for establishing a Gold Currency; many of the Arguments contained

Cons. 2nd June 1766. 28 July. in Mr. Campbell's Letter appear to us to admit very different Conclusions than those he draws,

1 Sept. 24 Febr. 12th March 1767. the raising the Comparative value with Silver beyond the established Rates must infallibly

tempt the neighbouring Countries to give you their Gold for your Silver and the prohibition of the Exportation of Silver ordered by the Government can never check it—Silver lays in too small a Compass to be restrained by any examination and yet the pretence for such an Examination may be productive of the most grievous

oppression and obstruction to the Commerce of the Country—The Argument of drawing forth hoards of Gold into Circulation is equally liable to Refutation the principle on which it is concealed is the fear of the strong hands of Power, nothing can Counteract those fears but a thorough confidence in the Mildness and justice of the Government—Of all the means proposed by Mr Campbell there is only one that appears to us founded on general experience, and that is the receiving of Gold in payment of the Revenues, for there is nothing but the freedom of Circulation can encourage it and all force in matters of Commerce are always ineffectual

59 The fixing the value of the Rupees has always been what we have earnestly desired but the only mode of doing it appears to reduce the imaginary value of a new Sicca, to conclude we are very apprehensive of ill consequences resulting from overrating the value of the Gold, if it should prove an error the sense of it must not check you from reversing the order and reducing the price to its just value

60 We are unwilling to impute any sinister views to any measure our Servants have adopted for our Benefit but the weak Arguments urged in support of the establishing this Gold Currency give too much reason to apprehend there may be some foundation for the Assertions that have been made in a General Court of Proprietors of great advantages made by Individuals on the sudden rise in the price of Gold

61 The neglect of the Mint Master in not sending us Samples of the Coinage of your Mint this season prevents our transmitting the usual Reports of the Tower Assays, which would have informed us of the firmness of this new Gold Coinage which we were very desirous of knowing—You must take care he is not guilty of this omission in future

62 We are pleased to find Mr Campbell has conducted himself to our satisfaction in the Office of Assay Master and you must inform us if there are any of our Servants training up to be fit to succeed him in that Office, agreeable to the directions we gave when Mr Campbell was appointed

Genl Lre to 5th  
Mar 1763 Pa 75

*Sixthly and Seventhly of Covenant and Military  
Servants and Accounts*

63 We are not at all displeased at the Remonstrance made by Messrs Aldersey, Kelsall and Floyer against Mr Rumbold taking his Rank above them but as Lord Clive in his Letter to us had excepted that Gentleman from the General Censure we think it



Sir Thomas Rumbold



would have been highly injurious to Mr. Rumbold that he should have suffered a Supercession his Conduct had not merited, we therefore confirm the Rank he now holds which we expect shall be chearfully acquiesced in without disturbing that harmony which we see with pleasure established among our Senior Servants.

64. Although nothing could offend us more highly than that our Civil Servants should any way countenance or spirit up the refractory and mutinous behavior of the Military, yet in consideration of your recommendation of Mr. Higgenson together with the alleviating Circumstances which attended the Crime for which he was Suspended and the Contrition he has expressed we permit you to restore him to the Service.

65. We recommend it to you to continue your Vigilance in detecting all European Vagrants who escape from the Ships or find any means to get to India without License and to send them home. Mr. Grueber's behavior at Buddaul<sup>1</sup> confirms us in the Opinion we have long entertained of the impropriety (*sic*) of sending Company's Servants to provide the Investment at the Aurungs, the very small Investment he made gives us Reason to think he attended more to the providing Goods for himself than for the Company and the great expence he was at in Buildings was quite inadequate to the quantity of the Investment, you therefore did well to charge them to his Account and annexing Buddaul Aurung to the Malda Factory.

66. We are surprized to find so very material an Alteration in the Administration of our Affairs as the establishment of a perpetual Zemindar passed over with so little notice as the bare Minute on Consultation of the 26th March 1767 which expresses no one reason for the measure and furnishes us with no lights whether to approve or disapprove it, we think this a very reprehensible (*sic*) neglect which is all we shall say of it 'till we receive your reasons for it.

67. In consequence of your Recommendation for us to send out Persons properly qualified to execute the Office of Accountants, we have appointed Mr. Lionel Darell to be Sub-Accountant at your Presidency, of whose Abilities for this station we are fully satisfied. He is to take Rank on his arrival as youngest Senior Merchant upon our Bengal Establishment in which station he is to continue fixed and not to rise higher and he is to have the usual Appointments of a Senior Merchant with such additional Allowances as is annexed to the Post of Sub Accountant.

68. As Mr. Darell will probably arrive before your General Books ending April 1768 are balanced, the Sub-Accountant who shall have the same in hand must necessarily continue and

compleat (*sic*) that Sett of Books, during which Mr Darell must be stationed in the Accountant's Office to go on with the current Books and at the same time afford such Assistance as may be requisite for expediting those of the former Year, in order that they may be forwarded to us by one of your early Shups

69 The Remarks we have from time to time made on your General Books will point out to Mr Darell the several Imperfections we desire to have rectified and joined with that Attention we hope and expect from him will we trust establish the Books of your Presidency on a regular and correct Plan—We rely also on your assisting by Advice or otherwise to forward so essential a Work to which the Regulations proposed by your Committee of Inspection if duly pursued must in a great measure Contribute

70 As it may not be in our Power to supply you in future with Persons well qualified for the Post of Sub Accountant it behoves you to place as Assistants in that Office a proper number of our Junior Servants who may be improving under Mr Darell's Instructions and rendering themselves fit to undertake the Conduct of your General Books in case any Event should make a new Appointment necessary.

71 In our Letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1767 we recommended to your notice and encouragement Messrs Charles Bentley and Gerard Gustavus Ducarel for the good Sense they had shewn in refusing to join in the Resolution taken by the rest of the Junior Servants to behave with disrespect to their Superiors, we direct you to give all Countenance and Encouragement to those Young Gentlemen and to give them the preference whenever any advantageous Post or Employment suitable to their Rank and standing in the Service shall fall vacant.

72 At a General Court of the Proprietors held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1711 it was Resolved That the various Prosecutions commenced by order of the Court of Directors in the Name of the East India Company against their former Servants in Bengal, and also all Attachments ordered against the Effects of such Servants on account of Presents received before signing the Covenants on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1703 be discharged."

73 You are hereby directed to conform to and carry the said Resolution into execution accordingly and we have thought proper to extend the same indulgence to the Servants under prosecution for the Sums taken from the Rajah of Burdwan and Midnapore Zemindars, in which the Conduct of those who passed those Accounts was almost as unjustifiable as those who actually received the Money, and the Bonds taken from Messrs. Marriott,



Watts, Lawrell, Goodwin and Graham & ca. on those Accounts are accordingly to be delivered up.

74. Our Servants must not presume on this indulgence or think it will be an example for future times As the Company now pay to the Government a large Sum out of the Revenues, it becomes us to be very watchful of the Administration of them—We shall expect the most rigid integrity in every department, for if those who are at the head of these important Offices which now fall under the Conduct of our Servants do not set the Example of the most untainted honesty and fidelity venality will soon spread itself through every Rank and the Revenues on which we depend for the support of a permanent Establishment and for a Return for the many imminent dangers to which we have been exposed since we were first forced into the Country Wars will instead of a source of Prosperity and Security to the Company, become the prey of rapacious Individuals and bring danger and dishonour to our Affairs.

75. Mr. William Magee having desired our permission to return to Bengal and reside there one Year for adjusting his private concerns, and Mr. Tyso Saul Hancock having also requested to return and reside there for three Years for the Recovery of his Effects, we have consented to their requests and do hereby enjoin you to see that they return respectively within the times above-mentioned.

76. Mr. George Stowe who obtained our license to proceed to India last Season as a Free Merchant has our Permission to take passage on one of the Ships of this Season.

77. As the Company's extensive and rich Possessions in India cannot be secure but by a large body of well regulated Troops, we have consulted Lord Clive, Generals Lawrence, Caillaud and Carnac and other Military Gentlemen on this important Subject, and have thereupon found it necessary to make some Alterations in the Present Military Establishments at the several Presidencies, at yours in particular, where the Company have so much at Stake, it is highly expedient to encrease the number of Europeans, and to have them Commanded by a larger Proportion of Field and other Officers. Upon this Idea we have thought proper to adopt the following Plan for the Military Establishment in Bengal, which you are to carry into execution accordingly as soon as you can—We send out this Season for Fort St. George and Bengal, about Seventeen hundred Recruits, as you have been already advised about twelve hundred whereof are intended for you and we give the necessary directions to the President and Council of the first named place accordingly—We also send you several Officers as hereafter mentioned, and it

is our intention to supply you with such a number of Recruits annually, as will keep the several Corps compleat

78 Instead therefore of the Establishment as it now stands the following is to be substituted and adopted vizt

79 It is to consist of three Regiments, each Regiment to be divided into two Battalions, each Battalion to be composed of seven Companies, and one Grenadier Company—Each of the said Seven Companies to consist of one Captain, one Lieutenant one Ensign, four Serjeants, four Corporals, two Drummers and fifty private Men—& the Grenadier Company to consist of a Captain, three Lieutenants, five Serjeants, five Corporals, three Drummers and sixty seven Private Men

80 The Field Officers are to be a Colonel to each of the three Regiments, and a Lieutenant Colonel and Major to each Battalion

81 According to the said Establishment, the three Regiments then are to be composed of

	3 Colonels
	6 Lieutenant Colonels
	6 Majors
<hr/>	
15	48 Captains
	60 Lieutenants
	42 Ensigns
<hr/>	
150	198 Serjeants
	198 Corporals
	102 Drummers
<hr/>	
498	2502—Private Men
<hr/>	
3165	

82 That the several Battalions may be completely Officered agreeable to our intention expressed in the 79th Paragraph the custom of the Field Officers having the Command of Companies is hereby ordered to be set aside, consequently they are not to be entitled to pay as Captains of Companies, or advantages arising there from by Clothing or any other Emoluments whatsoever—However the Pay of Field Officers, as such not being sufficient to support them in a manner suitable to their Rank we do agree and accordingly

direct, that they be allowed an addition of Ten Shillings a day vizt.

A Colonel as Field Officer	...	...	£ — 15
addition as above	...	...	— 10
			<hr/>
			£ 1. 5
			<hr/>
A Lieutenant Colonel as Field Officer	...	...	— 10
addition as above	...	...	— 10
			<hr/>
			£ 1.
			<hr/>
A Major as Field Officer	...	...	— 5
addition as above	...	...	— 10
			<hr/>
			£ — 15
			<hr/>

83. The Allowances severally allotted to them out of the Revenues as directed in our General Letter of the 20th November last, in addition to the above mentioned ones, we consider as a very ample Compensation for every former Advantage arising to Field Officers as Captains of Companies.

84. As much depends upon a well regulated Corps of Artillery, and in order to give all fitting Encouragement to the Officers of such Corps, it is to be formed into a Battalion, consisting of four Companies, each Company to be composed of

- 1 Captain
- 1 Captain Lieutenant
- 1 First Lieutenant
- 1 Second Lieutenant
- 3 Lieutenant Fire workers

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7

- 6 Serjeants
- 6 Corporals
- 2 Drummers
- 2 Fifers
- 10 Bombardiers
- 20 Gunners

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46

58 Mattrosses

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111 Total

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85. The Field Officers to the said Corps are to be a Lieutenant Colonel and a Major, according to which disposition the Battalion of Artillery is to be composed of vizt.

1 Lieutenant Colonel  
1 Major

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2

4 Captains  
4 Captain Lieutenants  
4 First Lieutenants  
4 Second Lieutenants  
12 Lieutenant Fire workers

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28

24 Serjeants  
24 Corporals  
8 Drummers  
8 Fifers  
40 Bombardiers  
80 Gunners

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184

232 Mattrosses

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446 Total

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86. The several Officers and others, belonging to the Corps of Artillery, are to be always kept therein, and not removed into any other Corps, as without such a restriction the Service would be liable to many inconveniences—By way of encouragement therefore we have adopted the Plan as before-mentioned, of having Field Officers therein as high as a Lieutenant Colonel, to give them rank in the Army, beyond which they are not at any time entitled to rise.

87. The said Field Officers vizt. the Lieutenant Colonel and Major, are to be on the footing of those of the same Rank in the Infantry, as to not having Companies, and being allowed Shares in the Revenues according to their Rank in addition to the Pay as Field Officers, as mentioned in the 82nd & 83rd Paragraphs.

88. With respect to the other Officers of these Corps they are to have in addition to their usual Pay, by way of Donation or Gratuity, the Allowances mentioned in our Letter of the 20th of November last upon the same Conditions—That is to say a Captain Three Shillings a day, a Captain Lieutenant Two Shillings and six pence a day, a Lieutenant two Shillings and Lieutenant Fire worker one Shilling. And their Rank with respect to the rest of our Forces, is to be as Captains, Lieutenants and the Lieutenant Fire workers as Ensigns.

89. To give all fitting encouragement likewise to the Corps of Engineers, and to put it as nearly on a footing with our others in point of Rank and Emoluments, as the nature of the Service will consistently admit of, we have thought proper to adopt the following Plan, and we accordingly direct the said Corps be composed of

A Chief Engineer to take Rank as Lieutenant Colonel

A Director to take Rank as Major

Three Sub Directors to take Rank as Captains

Two Sub Engineers to take Rank as Lieutenants

Two Practitioner Engineers to take Rank as Ensigns.

90. The number of the three last named Classes may be encreased, as the nature of the Service may require, from among such of the Lieutenant Fire workers and Cadets, as shall be properly Qualified for such Stations.

91. The Persons who shall fill the said several Stations, are to remain in the Corps of Engineers and are not to be removed into any other, advancing however therein according to their standing, as far as the Rank of Lieutenant Colonels, but no higher.

92. The Chief Engineer is to be allowed the pay of Lieutenant Colonel as settled for Officers in that Rank in the 82d. Paragraph of this Letter vizt. Twenty Shillings a day which with a proportionate share of the Revenues upon the terms and Conditions mentioned with respect to the Officers of the same Rank and settled in our Letter of the 20th November last are to be in full consideration both for his Station as Chief Engineer and his Rank as Lieutenant Colonel.

93. The Director being the next Officer is to be allowed the pay of Major as likewise settled for Officers in that Rank in the 82d. Paragraph of this letter vizt. Fifteen Shillings a day, which with a proportionate Share of the Revenues, upon the terms and conditions mentioned with respect to the Officers of the same Rank and settled in our Letter of the 20th November last, are to be in full consideration both for his Station as director or Assistant Engineer, and his Rank of Major.

94 The other Members of the said Corps are to have an additional pay by way of Gratuity or Donation in the same manner as the rest of our Military Officer that is to say those in the Rank of Captains three Shillings a day, Lieutenants Two Shillings and Ensigns one Shilling

95 As we are now regulating our Military System at Bombay, upon a something similar Plan with that at our other Presidencies, Lieutenant Colonel Pemble who belongs to the Bombay Establishment is therefore to proceed thither accordingly, if he is not already gone, agreeable to the Orders in our Letters of the 24th December 1765 and 26th March 1766 having appointed him Colonel and Commander in Chief under the President and Council of all the Company's Forces at that Presidency

96 By the Alteration we have now ordered with respect to the Military System at your Presidency more Field Officers are wanting likewise good and experienced Officers below those Ranks, We therefore send out this Season three Lieutenant Colonels, three Majors, and the several Captains and Lieutenants hereunder mentioned vizt

Lieutenant Colonels/Charles Champion/George Sempill/  
Matthew Leslie/ [ ] Majors/ William English (dead)/  
John Morrison/William Blair/ [ ] Captains/William  
Popham/William Cosby/Alexander Rose (dead)/George  
Burrington/Benjamin Ashe/William Thomson/James Fore  
man/William Peake (dead)/Joseph William Crabb/Benja  
min Wroe/Timothy Edwards/Cristopher Horsfall/Captain  
Lieutenant/Roger Hogg/[ ] Lieutenants/Wilham Lane/  
William Watson/John Scott/Michael Bruce/Walter Bar  
land/Martin Gilpin/Richard Lucas/John Dupont/Walter  
Maynard/Henry Atkinson/Thomas Scott/ Robert McNab/  
Thomas Carroll/Russell Arden/Anthony Hartle/Alexander  
Munro/James Gould

97 In order to settle the Rank of the several beforementioned Officers we must previously inform you that it is our pleasure and Orders that

Richard Smith Esqr Sir Robert Barker and Joseph Peach Esqr, now in Bengal be the Colonels of the three Regiments of Infantry Charles Chapman, Hugh Grant and William Smith Esqrs be lieutenant Colonels of three of the Six Battalions

98 Observing by the General List of the Army in the Company's Service in Bengal transmitted to us by the Britannia and which is the last received the following Gentlemen stand thereon

this Letter and on their arrival in Bengal they are to rank with respect to the other Officers in the Company's Service who shall be in Commission when you receive this Letter in the following Order, that is to say—The first Captain proceeding from hence is to rank next below the Youngest Captain in Commission as abovementioned and the others are to follow in the order they are named—The same method is to be observed in ranking the Lieutenants under the Youngest Lieutenant in Commission

106 The said Captains and Lieutenants are to succeed in the Order we have named them as Vacancies happen in the Regiments, in the mean time they are to be allowed the usual Pay as Captains and Lieutenants and are to be employed in the Sepoy Battalions or otherwise agreeable to their respective Ranks as you shall judge most conducive to the good of the Service

107 With respect to the Corps of Artillery, as we have new Planned it into a Battalion Fleming Martin now in Bengal is to have the Command as Lieutenant Colonel and Thomas Deane Pearce now proceeding from hence is hereby appointed Major thereof

108 We have also appointed David Rosall and James Burnett to be Captains of Artillery, and they are accordingly to fill such Vacancies as shall be therein upon their arrival or shall happen next after their arrival and they are to Rank as they are here named next under the last Captain in Commission upon their arriving in Bengal

109 The several Officers now in Bengal are to be continued in the Corps and are to be advanced therein according to their respective Ranks, if you find them deserving—But there are two Captains Lieutenants vizt Patrick Duff and Isaac Warren who may be of use in those Stations but not to advance further—It is our Pleasure therefore that they do not rise higher

110 As it will be greatly for the benefit of the Service to have as many Young Gentlemen well qualified in the Artillery and Engineering branches of Education to be added to the Artillery Corps we have accordingly entertained the Persons hereunder named who are upon their arrival to be Lieutenant Fireworkers in the several Companies the first of whom is to take Rank next below the Youngest of the same Rank who shall be on your List upon the receipt of these Advices vizt

James Myaffre/Thomas Nepean/ James Cockburn/Francis Moore/Thomas Harris/James Irwin/Justly Hill/George Sampson/Thomas Cooper Everitt/Charles Fitz Gerald/John Insley/ George Deare/Robert Dawes

111 Having regulated the Corps of Engineers in the manner

before mentioned, we have appointed Archibald Campbell to be Chief Engineer and rank as Lieutenant Colonel, and James Lillyman to be Director and rank as Major in that Corps.

112. We have directed Lieutenant Colonel Campbell to proceed first to Bombay to execute such directions as we shall give, in regard to the Works carrying on under that Presidency, which Service being executed, Mr. Campbell will then go on to Bengal where he is to remain and compleat the Works under your directions.

113. Lieutenant Colonel Campbells Pay and share of the Revenues before mentioned is to commence from his first arrival at Bombay—But as the amount thereof can only be ascertained at Bengal, If Mr. Campbell should apply for any Advances on account of what may become due to him during his continuance at Bombay for the before mentioned purposes, we shall direct our said Presidency to supply him with such Sums as he may request for defraying his Expences whilst he remains there for which they are to take him Bond or Bonds which are to be forwarded to you and to be recovered out of the first Money that shall become due to him.

114. Colonel Campbell having no separate Instructions or Powers from us as Engineer he is to act under your direction—You are therefore to give him the necessary Orders from time to time and furnish him with Copies of such parts of our Letters and your own proceedings as may be most useful to him and of whatever else may be necessary and material for his Information—In doing which you will always keep in view the conducting the Works with the utmost diligence Economy and frugality so frequently recommended following is a Copy vizt.

115. He is to lay before you from time to time the progress made in the several Works carried on under his Direction which is to be transmitted to us as often as Conveyances offer, and at the same time you are to give us your Opinion thereupon.

116. That the several Officers now proceeding to Bengal may be fully informed upon what terms they are entertained, and therefore to take away all pretences for altercations on account of Rank or otherwise upon their arrival, previous to their taking the usual Oath to be true and faithful to the Company in their several Stations, they were each of them shewn a paper by our Secretary, to which they declared their assent and agreement of which the following is a Copy vizt.

117. “That all such as are or have been in His Majesty’s Service are to take Rank of one another in their Arrangement here and according to the dates of their respective Commissions that is to say



The Lieutenant Colonels are to Rank next to each other of the same Class as Lieut Colonel

‘The Majors in like manner as Majors

‘The Captains in like manner as Captains

‘The Lieutenants in like manner as Lieutenants

118 That on their arrival in India they are to Rank next to the lowest of the same Class there, in the order they are named from hence vizt The first Person of each Class upon the List here is to Rank under the last Officer of the Company's of the same Denomination who shall be in Commission on their arrival in India

119 ‘That it is to be observed however that such Officers belonging to the Company who have leave to return in their Service are to take Rank agreeable to the last Commissions given them in India in the same manner as if they had continued there

120 ‘That they are not only to obey their Superior Officers according to the Rules and Discipline of War, but are to be entirely subject to the Orders of the Governor and Council at each Presidency who are the Company's Legal Representatives as likewise to such Orders as they may receive from any of the Company's Civil Servants at their several Subordinate Settlements to whom the Governor and Council shall think fit to delegate such Authority

121 ‘That as they are entirely subject to the Authority of the Company's Civil Representatives so the Governor and Council upon the misbehaviour of any Officer may whenever they think fit take away such Officers Commission without bringing him before a Court Martial according to the general practice of the Service”

122 If it shall happen that the Recruits going out this Season will more than complete the Several Corps according to the Present Establishment, you are in such case to cause them to be equally divided among the said Corps

123 Having in general settled the Outlines of the Military Establishment for Bengal you are strictly to conform thereto—We are sensible there are many Regulations necessary for effectually carrying the same into Execution we therefore recommend it to you to settle as soon after the receipt of this as possible and in order to assist you herein we now send you the printed Military Code or Plan given out at Madras in 1765 for the Troops on the Coast of Chormandel, which allowing for the difference of the Service at the two Presidencies may be adapted to the situation and particular Circumstances of the Troops employed in Bengal varying the Rules Orders and Regulations accordingly—Such a Code can only be

drawn out upon the Spot we direct therefore that you form one as soon as you can and transmit it to us for our information and further directions and here we are to observe that it is not by multiplying Orders and Regulations that a Military System can improve but by a strict attention that the Orders given are observed and obeyed.

124. You are not only to transmit to us a Copy of such a Code annually, but you are likewise to transmit Copies to the other Presidencies who are to do the same with respect to you.—This mutual communication will, if duly attended to, be productive of a similarity of System throughout our whole possessions.

125. In all Commissions which may in future be granted to Military Officers you are to observe the following method practised by our Presidency at Fort St. George those to Field Officers and Captains are to be granted and signed by the President and Council, and those to Subaltern Officers granted and signed, by the President only—The Company's Seal is to be affixed to all such Commissions and they are to regularly minuted on your Consultations.

126. You are not in future to oblige the Military Officers to Contract to serve for any term as we shall not do so here—The Powers vested in our Presidents and Councils for Dismissing such Officers as do not behave to their satisfaction will always be sufficient to keep the Military under proper Subordination to the Civil Authority.

127. In consequence of the considerable Encrease of our European Infantry we recommend a proportionable Decrease of the Sepoys, and we think that Reduction should not be less than Three thousand from the Brigade Sepoys—We do not positively order it, but depend on your discretion to do it when time and Circumstances will admit neither shall we prescribe how it shall be carried into execution, leaving it to you either to reduce the provincial Sepoys, and incorporate the 3000 to be reduced from the Army Sepoys into the provincial Corps, nevertheless keeping up the distinction due to the Brigade Sepoys by putting them on more Soldier like Service than that of collecting the Revenues—When this Reduction shall be made we still think a standing Force of Three Regiments and the Artillery Battalion and fifteen thousand Sepoys is far superior to any Country Force that can be brought against the Provinces and the lessening the proportion between the Europeans and Sepoys is adding to our Safety.

128. With respect to the said Corps of Sepoys we cannot here form a perfect judgment of the number requisite, as that must depend upon the circumstances and situation of Affairs as before observed and the forming of them must be left to your discretion observing that this Establishment must in all its Parts be calculated

to enforce order discipline and subordination for on this we must depend and by this we are to hope to maintain our Superiority and give security to our System of Government—These good purposes will be best answered by your paying them regularly using them with humanity and giving the Battalions as many European Commission and Non Commission Offers as the Service can afford and Lord Clive informs us that as the Sepoys are separated and divided into three Brigades the danger of their holding Cabals of any alarming nature is in a great measure avoided to which his Lordship adds that the best additional Security he can think of is to have each Battalion composed of an equal number of Gentoos and Mussulmen and to encourage a rivalry of disc[ipline] between them all which we recommend to your attention

129 The Reasons assigned for entertaining eight Independant Battalions of Sepoys for the collection of the Revenues to wit that this measure will tend to the encrease of the Revenue by the reduction of the Provincial Troops and Expences is our only Motive for approving it but we expect to see that effect evidently appear in your future Accounts in the reduction of the Charges Collections

Select Lre frm  
5 Decr 1766 Pa 18

130 It is very extraordinary that we cannot in your Consultations or the Select Committee's Proceedings trace the Progress of the vast encrease in the Sepoy Battalions the Orders for raising New Battalions never appear on your deliberations so that although we find by your Returns received P Mercury we had no less than thirty Battalions in our Service including the Eight mentioned in the preceding Paragraph yet so important a measure never appears to have been the subject of a regular deliberation—We cannot account for this neglect but by supposing that the Military Regulations have flown from the Governor's Authority in virtue of his being Commander in Chief but this by no means justifies you in our Opinion the encrease or decrease of the Army ought never to take place without mature deliberation and reasons regularly assigned on the face of your Proceedings

131 The preserving the Troops in good health and discipline is so very essential that we cannot omit giving them our Sentiments thereon—We have already directed you not to suffer the Recruits from Europe to be landed at Calcutta if it can be avoided but to send them to the Cantonments—We further think it necessary that you should relieve the Regiments so as to make them change their Cantonments at least once a Year, and you must recommend it to the Officers to observe strict discipline in marching through the Country that the Inhabitants receive no injurious treatment from the Soldiers

132. The Friends of Lieutenant John Shrimpton have applied to us to permit of his immediate return to Europe—We observe he was dismissed and render'd incapable of our future Service by your Select Committee on the 6th January 1767. and ordered to be sent to Europe on the Ship Anson—But as he does not appear to have taken passage on any of the Ships arrived from the Coast and Bay this Season, we direct if he should be any where under the Presidency of Bengal. that you send him to Europe by one of the first ships, as well in compliance of his Friends request, as the said Resolution of the Committee.

133. Mr. Robert Mackenzie who had been a Lieutenant in His Majesty's Service, having applied too late to be appointed a Cadet last Season, went out as Soldier to Bengal on the Admiral Pocock—. If he should not be advanced by you to that Rank before you are to promote him thereto upon the receipt of this Letter.

134. Having appointed Mr. James Capper, who we understand has resided some time as a Free Merchant at Bengal, to be Captain of Artillery at Fort St. George, and succeed as youngest Captain to the first Company which shall vacant (*sic*) after his arrival you are thereof immediately to acquaint him thereof and direct him to proceed to his Station on the Coast forthwith.

135. We are surprized at the Account Colonel Smith gives of his Expences as mentioned in Consultation 12th August 1766, and apprehend so great an Expence must arise from mistaken notions of a necessity of imitating the Grandeur and Ostentation of the Eastern Princes which is by no means our wish and intention being persuaded European plainness and simplicity will create more awe and respect than an imitation of their manners—Nevertheless we do not mean that such Expence as shall be thought necessary for the support of Dignity or for Presents to the Eastern Grandees should be flung on the Commander in Chief, the Council or the Select Committee will judge of the propriety of such Charges and act accordingly.

136. Although we are of opinion that by the spirit of the Covenants entered into by Lord Clive he could not accept of the Legacy bequeathed him by the Nabob Meer Jaffir without our consent, yet considering the benevolent purposes to which his Lordship intend it to be applied we do permit him to accept the same for the uses proposed, and we shall upon his Lordship's return from abroad consider of such further measure as may be proper for carrying the same into Execution, which will be communicated to you in our next Advices.

137. It is with great pleasure we observe the Nabob has given

the sum of Three Lacks towards the extension of this beneficent design, and he is to be acquainted it gives us the strongest impression of his generosity.

138. It becomes you to be extremely attentive to shun every encrease our Expences that is not absolutely necessary, for we perceive by your last Advices they already amounted to One hundred and Twenty Lacks P Annum, to which the Tribute to the King, the Nabob's Stipend, the Salary to the Ministers being added make two hundred Lacks of fixed Expence on a full Peace establishment—To this will be added a considerable Encrease in our Military Expences at Bombay necessary for the support of the general System altogether mount our Indian Expences to a very great Sum, besides what may be paid to the Morattas if your Treaty with them comes to a conclusion.

139. To these must be added the Four hundred thousand Pounds a Year paid to the Public here for their Participation in the Revenue, and there still remains to be charged to the account the considerable deduction of our former Profits on our Sales by the great exceeding in our importation to bring home the Revenues.

140. When these Calculations are made you will find we already Approach the utmost limits of what Expence can be afforded from the Revenues—And shou'd there be occasion for any Military Operations it will be found we have not altered our Situation much to our Advantage, but have only exchanged a certain Profit in Commerce for a precarious one in Revenue.

141. We observe your intention to pay off the Interest Debt except such Sums as were the sole Fund of support of Old Inhabitants, Orphans and Widows—We cannot disapprove what appears so necessary an indulgence, but there must be a proper attention to see that such Sums as remain unpaid are really reserved for proper Objects, and therefore you must transmit us annually a List of such Bond Credits.

142. The surviving Executor of Capt. Thomas Browne deceased has applied to us for payment of two Interest Notes in the name of Roger Drake Junr. and John Browne being for Money paid into your Treasury by them as Attornies to the said Thomas Browne, one of which Notes was dated 11th July 1753 for Current Rupees 6475...2...6 and the other dated 15th August 1753 for Current Rupees 3849...2...6 amounting together to Current Rupees 10324...5— which Sum together with Six other Interest Notes mentioned in your Letter of [.....] October 1702 we gave you directions to discharge upon the Claimants delivering up the Certificates of the President and Council and making the Affidavit and entering into a Security Bond

agreeable to the form we then sent you this we must conclude you have punctually complied with though you have not apprized us of the particulars of these Transactions.

143. By the Interest Books of your Presidency ending April 1766 (received July 1767) the account in the Names of the before mentioned Drake and Browne, seems to be discharged, by your Treasury Accounts 25th July 1765 your Treasury is Credited for two Bonds of the above date and Sums can [.....] with Interest thereon adjusted to the 11th of the same Month the whole amounting to Current Rupees 20206...7...9 and on the same day your Treasury is Debited for two Sums said to be received in the names of Roger Drake and John Browne of Current Rupees 7515...5 and Current Rupees 12691...2...9—to bear Interest from the 11th and by an Entry in your Interest Books dated [.....] February 1766 the last mentioned Sums with Interest thereon appear to be paid off and the Account finally closed.

144. But as the Present Claimant on behalf of the Estate of Thomas Browne deceased does not seem to have authorized any Person to receive the same you must not fail to inform us of the whole of this Proceeding, to whom and upon what claim and Condition the fresh Bonds were granted in July 1765 and to whom paid off in February 1766 that we may be enabled to give every requisite information to Captain Browne's Executor.

145. Since the Remarks we made on your Accounts of Quick Stock, have had the satisfaction to find in your Statement P Nottingham that you have inserted the Particulars of the Stock of your Principal Subordinates, agreeable to the Directions we had given, excepting that you have included sundry Articles which do not properly belong to a Quick Stock Account.

146. At the same time we cannot but express our Surprise to find the Accounts of Maulda and Chittagong continued on this Statement in single Entries, from whence we must infer that their Accounts had not been forwarded to you—this remissness in our Servants at those Factories is highly displeasing to us and we cannot entirely acquit you of blame in suffering such Neglect to continue for so long a time as it appears to have done, but we hope all Complaints on this Subject will be prevented in future.

147. We must here take Notice also of a material omission in the Statement of your Quick Stock P Nottingham, which is your not inserting the Sums remaining in the hands of the Resident at the Durbar as near as possible to the time of your closing such Statement, this we suppose must have been to a considerable Amount as by the Moorshedabad Treasury Account of the 28th February

1767 the Balance appears to be near Eighteen Lacks of Sicca Rupees, which Sum could not have been much affected by Remittances from thence to the 12th March following the date of your Statement, this therefore you must attend to in future that we may not be misled in the effective State of your Presidency and Subordinates

148 The Directions we gave you in our Letter of the 21st November last respecting the proper entries of your Quick Stock Accounts were we imagine sufficiently explanatory of the Form we would have been you pursue however to obviate every means of misapprehension you are to observe and punctually comply with the following Rules and Orders on this head 117t

The Presidency is

<i>To be Debited</i>	<i>To be Credited</i>
For the Balance of Your Cash and Treasure	For all Debts owing by the Company distinguishing under different heads the Nature of them whether For Money borrowed at Interest with the Interest due thereon
For Bullion (When such shall be) according to the real value	
For Goods and Stores remaining for Sale to be valued at the Invoice Price	
For Goods remaining in the Warehouse intended for Europe Valued at the real Cost	For Goods delivered in by the Merchts and valued in the Debit of this Account but not paid for
For Goods and Stores remaining intended for use	For Money owing on any other Account whatsoever
For good Debts owing to the Company	

The same Method is to be observed in the Accounts of the several Subordinates and under their respective heads to be inserted in the above Account

149 The Balance is the Nett value of the Stock in Trade, or as it is generally called, Quick Stock

150 The Dead Stock, consisting of Forts, Buildings and Works and their Appurtenances, is to have no place in this Account, neither is Ordnance or Military Stores, issued for Service, to be included

151 If it shall happen that at or near the close of the Account any Money or Goods are received from or sent to any Part of India a proper Remark must be made at the bottom of the Name of the Ship and the value of such Money or Goods and whether included in the Account, and such Account must be forwarded to us by every Conveyance taking care they be correct

152. If our Servants at the Subordinates do not send you their Accounts in time, you must supply the same by way of Estimate in the best manner you can but they are to understand that a neglect of this kind will not pass unnoticed.

153. Before we quit this Subject we have to add that as by your Accounts Quick Stock, the Balance of your Treasury appears in one Article, by which means we cannot see the various Species of Coin that compose the same we hereby further direct that you transmit us together with your Quick Stocks a separate State of the Money remaining in your Treasury, particularizing the several Species both Gold and Silver of each denomination, with their respective Batta—And you are to observe that as this is to be considered as an Exemplification of one Part of your Quick Stock Accounts it must constantly accompany the same.

154. We have received the Accounts of French Prisoners and Charges Hospital incurred by His Majesty's Troops, both of them authenticated under the Seal of the Mayors Court, but we still fear this Method of Authenticated may not be deemed sufficient at Receipts or Vouchers for the several Items will probably be expected from us, however if no Certificates had been obtained of His Majesty's Officers for Hospital Expences and no Receipts were given for the Sums paid or advanced on Account of French Prisoners it may now be too late to remedy this Omission and this we must conclude to have been the case, otherwise your Occasional Committee would doubtless have sent such as were to be found—We can therefore only regret the Irregularity of the several Offices and the Loss of many Accounts and Vouchers which the Committee suppose to have happened.

155. But with respect to your Account French Prisoners last received, we are surprized at the Omission of Current Rupees 43200 for Freight paid for the Ship Restitution for conveying Prisoners to Pondicherry, which certainly ought to have been carried to this Account as well as the Amount of the Decree in favor of the Owners for Current Rupees 74138...14...6 both of which were included in the Account you had before sent us. From this Omission (Should [.....] be under the necessity of producing your authenticated Accounts) an inference may be drawn to our disadvantage as your own Opinion of this Claim, though we rather consider it as an Oversight in the Stating of the Account.

156. Among the Remarks of your occasional Committee we observe their (*sic*) in regard to the Account Deposits which stands Debtor on your Books Current Rupees 11674...4...6 and is due from the Estate of Major Kilpatrick, though the Committee suppose that



the fall of Batta might have been the Cause of this Loss yet it was incumbent on you to have transmitted a regular State of the Account by which we might judge how far their Conjecture was well founded, more especially as we had directed such a state to be sent us (which we still require since without the Particulars of the Transaction we cannot give our final Orders in respect thereto And as to your Observation that Major Kilpatrick has neither Assets or Representatives in India, this was obviated by our Order for your sending us his Account authenticated under the Seal of the Mayors Court to be applied as the State of the case might require

157 By the Proceedings of the Committee of Restitution (3d October 1766) we find that the Sum of Rupees 4146018 10 9½ had been received on that Account of which the Committee observes that Rupees 4047919 7 3 had been paid to the several Claimants which had answered to the Amount of twelve Annas or threefourths of their respective demands—Upon this Calculate the whole then passed must amount to Current Rupees 5397225 15 by the Abstract of the Accounts passed by the Committee it appears that they amounted to Current Rupees 5457034 10 10 this difference we suppose to arise from two other Claims passed that day—yet even with the addition of these, the Committees Report and the State of the Account do not agree

158 But without making any farther Remark on the Imperfection and Insufficiency of the Accounts hitherto received, We must here express our surprize at your not having complied with our Orders of the 26th April 1765 Paragraph 28 and 24th December 1765 Paragraph 2 and 3 for sending the particulars of each Claim

159 We therefore renew those Orders and positively require you to send us exact Copies of all the Claims delivered to the Committee and further a general Account exhibiting in different Columns the amount of each particular Claims, the Sum admitted thereon, the Dividend paid, and the Name of the Person who received the same—This Account as well as the Copies of the several Claims must be properly attested, and we expect the greatest care and precision in the compiling and transcribing the same

160 By the Committees Proceedings before mentioned we observe also that a Balance was remaining with the Agents of Current Rupees 98099 3 6½ of which Current Rupees 93296 1 4½ was placed in the Company's bonds to answer a Dividend of twelve Annas on sundry Outstanding Debts on Claims not finally adjusted—To what purposes the difference of the last mentioned Sums (being Current Rupees 4803 2 2) is to be applied we are not informed and therefore expect an Explanation thereof, but as to the Balance

of Current Rupees 93296...1...4½ which we suppose to be adequate to the Purpose for which it was reserved. we consent and direct that such of the said Claimants who shall prove their demands to the satisfaction of our President and Council be paid out of the same after the rate of Twelve Annas P Rupees so as. to put them on a footing with the Claimants who have received threefourths of their adjusted Demands but you are to observe that no Sum exceeding the Amount of the beforementioned Balance be paid on any Account whatsoever, on the contrary such Surplus as may remain after the Payment of Twelve Annas P Rupee on the Claims not then finally adjusted must be deposited in your Treasury for our future determination.

161. We have on the Application of the Representative of William Lord Surgeon of the Ship Grenville, who died about a Month before she arrived at Bengal, paid here the usual head Money on those Troops who embarked on her and were landed at your Presidency as it did not appear by any Advices the same had been allowed in India—On this occasion it is necessary to direct that you do not fail to advice us in future when a Surgeon is not paid Head Money either from the like or any other cause, which would prevent all possibility of mistake.

162. The Measures pursued upon Capt. Mairs defrauding us by false Musters of Rupees 10102—were very proper, and we hope the Amount has been recovered in consequence of your Proceedings in the Mayors Court against him—You must be very vigilant in guarding against all instances of this kind in future, or they may be more frequent now our Military Establishment at your Presidency is so considerably encreased.

163. All Diamonds and Precious Stones registered at your Presidency should be delivered according to the general practice, into the Custody of the Commander of the Ship whereby they are registered that he may deposit them in our Treasury here in order for their being put up to Sale and delivered to their Consignments after paying us the usual Duties—Your deviation from this Rule in permitting a Bulce sent P Cruttenden to be delivered to the care of Sir Robert Fletcher and a Box by the same Ship to the care of Randolph Marriott Esqr. makes it necessary to enjoin you to pay a more punctual regard thereto in future.

164. You must likewise observe that all Silver and Gold sent home is to be registered and conveyed to us in the same manner, which we are led to direct from sixty Pounds weight of Silver Unregistered being sent from Bengal this Season by Mr. Henry Waddell.

*Supplement*

165 The Royal Society having applied to us as by the enclosed Copy of their Secretary's Letter, that Observations may be made at our several Presidencies or other Places in the East Indies of the next transit of the Planet Venus over the disk of the Sun which is expected to happen on the 3d June 1769 and being desirous by all means of concurring in an Affair of such Importance to the Advancement of Science, we thus early and earnestly Recommend it to you to all and every Person in the Service of the Company who are Conversant in Astronomy, and to desire in our Name by particular Notice or otherways all other Persons whatsoever under your influence properly qualified for the purpose to exert themselves in making the most careful and accurate Observations upon the said Transit, and to deliver their Reports to you in writing to be transmitted to us at least in Duplicate by the earliest Opportunities

166 To the Persons who shall be employed herein you are to deliver Copies of the Directions sent to you in 1760 by His Majesty's Ship Chatham for observing the last Transit and if we receive as promised some Instructions from His Majesty's Astronomer Royal for observations on the expected one, we shall forward the same that Copies thereof may also be put into the Hands of the Observers whom we also wish to be furnished with Instruments and every Assistance contributory to the success and accuracy of their Observations

167 We have given and shall send the like directions on this Subject to Fort St George, Bombay, Fort Marlborough and China

168 In our Letter of the 20th November last we gave you some directions in regard to the Ship Admiral Watson—We now order that if you or our Servants at Fort St George cannot return her hither with a proper Lading in the Season of her arrival in India, that the said Ship be sent to Bombay, there to be disposed of to the best Advantage, under the usual conditions that she is never to be returned to England nor to be disposed of to any Europeans except the English, taking Security of the purchases for the due performance thereof—And we have ordered that the Officers and Ships Company be entered into our Marine Service at Bombay—The four Mates upon their so doing are to be entertained as Lieutenants & to take their Rank from the time of their being appointed Mates in the said Ship, provided there shall be an absolute necessity for their Service

169 You have been informed of our intentions which you are punctually to attend to, that no Ship is to be detained a Season extraordinary in India and having also provided for bringing home

the Coast & Bay Investments by directing in the first place as many of the Bombay Ships to be employed for that Service as may be wanting we have under such Circumstances signified to our Presidency of Bombay that the preference is to be given to the Shrewsbury and Thames and directed one or both of these Ships to be dispatched accordingly to the Coast and Bay with all Expedition agreeable to the Advices they shall receive of what tonnage you or our Agents at Fort St. George may have occasion for.

170. As it appears by the Committee's Report of the Proofs of Gun Powder that the fine sort made by Mr. Walton was superior to that made before his Arrival, we are satisfied of his Capacity in this branch and direct that he Rank as Factor on your Civil List from the 30th July 1766, agreeable to our former Orders—But you are to observe he is not to be removed from the Superintendancy of this Branch till he has perfectly instructed one or more of our Covenanted Servants therein and you are forthwith to nominate some of our Writers for this purpose and see they give due application and on so doing that you give them fitting Encouragement to make themselves perfect in this material Business.

Cons. 23rd June 1766.  
Genl. Lrc. to 15th Feby. 1765 Pa. 63.

171. Having a very good opinion of the Abilities and Capacity of Mr. William Wynne Writer at your Presidency we direct that he receive all the encouragement that his diligence and fidelity may entitle him to.

172. If Mr. Samuel Court shall be in Bengal upon receipt hereof you are to inform him it is our positive Order that he Return to his Station at Bombay forthwith, which if he does not punctually obey, we have ordered his Name to be struck off our Civil List at that Settlement, and you are to require him to return to Europe by the first Ship.

173. Mr. Henry Plowman will we suppose upon the receipt of this, have had sufficient time since the departure of Mr. Vansittart for adjusting his Private Concerns, we therefore direct that if he does not immediately repair to his Station at Fort Marlborough he be struck off the List of Covenants Servants there and return to Europe by the first opportunity—You are to signify this to him and see it is punctually complied with.

174. We send in the Packets by these Ships agreeable to your Request some of the best Maps we can procure of the Peninsula of India, likewise some others lately printed of the Bengal Provinces and Countries adjacent.

175 Having been acquainted that Mr Peacocke who had formerly resided in Bengal without any License from us is gone from hence to France with a design of proceeding with his Family on a French Ship to India, we positively forbid your giving him any protection or Employ in our Service and in case of their appearance within your Jurisdiction, that you secure and send them to England by the first conveyance that offers, and you are to do the same by all others who shall thus surreptitiously make their way to the East Indies without our Permission

176 Having Prohibited any Free Merchants from proceeding to India this Season, except those of whom you have been advised, we have reason to apprehend that several Persons have previously embarked on our Shipping without any authority from us, and are entered as of the Ships Companies on their Books, with a view of being dropt in the East Indies, in order to reside there—We positively forbid your allowing any such Persons or others who have not our license to remain at your Presidency, or its Subordinates and that they be immediately sent to Europe by the first opportunity, for we are firmly resolved not to admit of their continuance in the East Indies and you are to acquaint us with the names of the Commanders who shall presume to disobey our Orders on this Subject that we may make them fully sensible of our just Resentment for the same, and further you are not on any pretence to fail in immediately sending home all Deserters from our Shipping

177 We have permitted Mr Jonathan Wathen Surgeon to send to yours and the Presidencies of Fort St George and Bombay a sett of new invented Instruments for the conveyance and cure of fractured Legs, that the improvement and advantages to be derived therefrom may be more generally known you are therefore to give such directions to our Surgeons in regard thereto as may best promote the good designs of the Author

178 You were acquainted in our Letter of the 21st November 1766 with the reasons for limiting the amount of Draughts to be made upon us from Bengal, yet as it appears we shall be subject to great difficulties in being sufficiently prepared to answer the very large Demands on our Treasury in consequence of the Payments to be made here for the use of the Public, and other very heavy and pressing Occasions, it is at this time indispensably necessary to limit your drawing Bills of Exchange or Certificates upon us and finding that a Sicca Rupee being paid into the Treasury at Bengal with 16 P Cent Batta the Current Rupee will produce only 15 10d 54/100 when standard Silver is here at five Shillings and six pence per Ounce, consequently granting Bills at two Shillings and three Pence is a Loss of 16½ P Cent, exclusive of Insurance and

Freight and at the same time is adding to the accumulation of the Company's Specie in India it is therefore repugnant to their Interest to grant Bills while we have a quantity of unemployed Specie in Bengal from whence the occasions of our other Presidencies for Money may be amply supplied.

179. Nevertheless in order to obviate the inconveniences that might arise to our Servants by suddenly putting an entire Stop to their Remittances we do allow you for the Season only after the Receipt hereof, that is until the dispatch of the last Ship in the beginning of the Year 1769 to draw upon us in their behalf at Ninety days sight, for a Sum not exceeding Seventy thousand Pounds Sterling at Two Shillings the Current Rupee, and that the said Sum be proportioned among such of them as may have occasion for Bills, in the manner you shall on due consideration deem the most equitable and notwithstanding any former Orders we hereby positively forbid your granting Bills of Exchange or Certificates upon us for any further Sum from the time of the receipt hereof until our further Orders, unless the Company's Affairs should absolutely require it.

180. The Remittances to Europe through our Cash from the Exigency of the times being thus limited we have considered in what manner it might be best to alleviate the hardships that individuals may sustain thereby and in order to compensate for the same and open a Channel for transmitting such Sums as there may be occasion to send hither until the alteration of Circumstances shall no longer require the refusal of Bills of Exchange, we have resolved and do accordingly allow that all our Servants, Civil, Marine and Military, the Traders in Coral and the Commanders of our Freight Ships may import Gold or Silver in Specie or Bullion from the East Indies free of duty and all other Charges, the Freight of a Quarter P Cent to the Commanders excepted—The Exportation of the said Specie or Bullion from Bengal is to be made under your license and Register in the same manner as is practised in respect to Diamonds except that the Exporter is to be free from all Duties and Charges thereon there and you are to transmit to us in Duplicate such Registers for ascertaining the particulars, that on the arrival of the Ships, we may order them to be brought up to our Treasury to be delivered to the Persons to whom the same are respectively consigned, and this Indulgence is to be continued until we shall revoke the same.

181. Colonel Hector Munro having represented to us that in March 1765 he lodged in our Treasury at Bengal the sum of £25000 under promise from the Governor and Council of Bills on the Company to that Amount by the Shipping of the ensuing Season,

but that his Attorney in Bengal having applied to the Governor and Council for such Bills they refused to grant them for any part of the Money, and the Colonel requesting us to give him such relief in this respect as we may think proper, we being desirous to shew our sense of the Colonel's good Services in every Indulgence consistent with our Interest do therefore direct if what he alleges is fact that you grant Bills upon us for such proportion of that Sum as will place him upon the footing of one of our superior Covenanted Servants under your Presidency in respect to part of the total Sum of £70 000 you are allowed by this Letter to draw upon us for

182 It being reasonable that our Civil and Military Servants under the Presidencies of Fort St George and Bombay should in some degree be put on similar footing with yours to encourage them likewise to exert their utmost endeavors to serve the Company with Zeal and Alacrity in the present extensive and important Situation of their Affairs, we have constituted an annual Fund of sixty thousand Current Pagodas for that purpose, arising out of the Territorial Revenue at Fort St George—But as there is no resource of that kind at Bombay the Fund for that Presidency must arise from our Revenues in Bengal we have therefore directed them to draw on you for One Lack and one third of Bengal Current Rupees annually so long as the Company shall be possessed of the Dewannee Revenues, and you are accordingly punctually to comply with the said Draughts, which said Sum is to be Proportioned out among our Civil and Military Servants at that Presidency upon a Plan some what similar to that settled for Bengal

183 In our Letter of the 20th November last we settled the Salary and Allowances for President Verelst and every future Governor of Bengal and you were acquainted

Pa 108 112 113 that the large share then allotted him of the Commission on the Revenues was in consideration of his relinquishing being concerned in every kind of Trade whatever and all presents or other Gratifications as specified in the Deed of Renunciation entered on your Consultations 22d September 1766, which we directed should be executed by our future Governors

184 We have since, upon mature consideration of the said Deed, caused a more proper Instrument to be prepared for the same purposes and now transmit Copies thereof that the same may be Engrossed and duly executed by Mr Verelst immediately and by every future Governor on his succeeding to that Station—The Governor is to execute this Deed in Triplicate, two of which are to be sent to us by different Ships and the third kept by you in our Treasure Chest, that they may be ready to be made use of either by us or you if necessary

185. Among other things which have contributed to the very heavy expence and delay in carrying on the Works we apprehend has been the Company's Servants furnishing the Materials used therein—We are liable to so great Abuses and Impositions from this practice that we positively forbid any of our Servants supplying either Materials for the Works or any other Articles whatever for the Company's use, but that the Committee of Works under your Inspection do always Contract with the Country Merchants for the same and lay them in at the first hand, as they may be constantly supplied with ready Money from our Treasury for that purpose.

186. You are to observe it is our intention and Order that Lord Clive is to be allowed a Proportionable share in the Sum which you are permitted to draw upon us by the 179th Paragraph of this Letter provided his Attornies shall request the same.

187. We have drawn upon you by these Ships the under-mentioned Bills of Exchange at the rate of two Shillings and a penny the Current Rupee and 30 days sight vizt.

	C. Rs.	£
One Sett for Current Rupees two hundred and Forty payable to Mr. John Graham for Pounds Sterling Twenty five received of Mr. Thomas Reading dated the 13th January 1768.	240...—	25
One Sett for Current Rupees One hundred and ninety two payable to John Graham for Pounds Sterling Twenty received of Mr. Thomas Reading the 14 January 1768.	192...—	20
One Sett for Current Rupees Nine hundred and Sixty payable to Mr. Henry Revell Junr. for Pounds Sterling One hundred received of Mrs. Frances Revell dated the 13th February 1768.	960...—	100
One Sett for Current Rupees two thousand eight hundred and eighty payable to Mr. William Majendie or in his Absence to Mr. Charles Purling for Pounds Sterling three hundred received of John Purling Esqr. dated the 29th February 1768.	2880...—	300
One Sett for Current Rupees two hundred and forty payable to Mr. John Bell for Pounds Sterling Twenty five received of Fitz		



Williams Barrington Esqr dated 4th March  
1768

C Rs £

240 — 25

One Sett for Current Rupees fourteen thousand  
four hundred payable to Mr Matthew  
Court for Pounds Sterling Fifteen hundred  
received of himself dated the 8th March  
1768

14 400 — 1500

£1970

We are

Your loving Friends

Thos Rous/Thos Saunders/Geo Dudley/Geo Wombwell/  
Peter Du Cane Junr/William Snell/J Manship/Ben  
Booth/Edwd Wheler/George Cuming/John Roberts/Ja  
Cockburn/Heny Savage/J Pardoe/J Creswicke

London 16th March 1768

*Enclosure 1*

FROM MATHEW MATY, SECRETARY, ROYAL SOCIETY,  
TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

British Museum Janr 22 1768

Gentlemen

In obedience to the Orders of the Royal Society, I take the liberty to apply to you in Their Name and solicit your concurrence in an Affair of some importance to the Advancement of Science and the honor of this Country The next Transit of the Planet of Venus over the disc of the Sun which is expected on June 3 1769 will afford the only means of ascertaining some of the principal and hitherto unknown Elements in Astronomy, and of improving both Geography and Navigation The First phenomenon of this kind ever taken notice of was observed above a Century ago by an Englishman, and the last which happened in 1761 excited the Curiosity of most Nations in Europe, but on Account of the War, and the want or inexperience of observers, the Fruits expected from this Observation and foretold by the great Dr Halley were but partly obtained, An opportunity of

the same Kind will again offer itself, and as [it] is The last, which the present and succeeding Generations will have for at least a hundred Years to come, it is to be hoped and indeed expected that an universal emulation will extend itself all over the Continent on so interesting an Occasion. The honor of this Nation seems particularly concerned in not Yielding the Palm to their Neighbours, and the Royal Society intends to exert all its strength and influence in order to have this Observation made with the greatest accuracy and if possible in the most uniform and satisfactory manner, in various Parts of the British Dominions. The experience which they have had of the readiness of this Potent Company to forward every great and national undertaking does not permit them to doubt of their taking a Share in this. They therefore hope that it will be early and earnestly recommended to such of the Company's Servants at Madras, Bombay, Bencoolen, or other places in the East Indies, as have been accustomed to Astronomical Observations, to prepare for and exert themselves in this; as the Phenomenon will be visible, at least during some Part of it, in all the Settlements of the Company. Mr. Astronomer Royal has promised to send to this Honble Board those Directions which will appear to him the most useful in order to make this observation with the greatest precision and advantage. He desired me in the mean while to Transmit to you a list of the Instruments which would be necessary for that purpose in each place of observation vizt.

- 1    ...    A reflecting Telescope of two Feet Focus with an Apparatus of Smoaked Glasses.
- 2    ...    A Pendulum Clock.
- 3    ...    An Astronomical Quadrant of one Foot radius at least, or in lieu of it an equal Altitude Instrument.

I have the Honor to be with great respect  
Gentlemen

Your most Obedt.

Humble Servant

M. Maty

Sec. R. S.

*Enclosure 2*

# COPY OF COMPANY'S GRANT TO LORD CLIVE OF AN ADDITIONAL TERM IN HIS JAGHIR

*(4 November 1767)*

This Indenture Made in London the 4th day of Novr in the 8th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith And in the Year of our Lord 1767 Between the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies of the one part And the Right Honorable Robert Lord Clive Baron of Plassey in the Kingdom of Ireland of the other Part

Whereas by Indenture bearing Date the Sixteenth Day of May in the Year of our Lord 1764 and made Between the said United Company of the one Part and the said Robert Lord Clive of the other Part Reciting therein that it was alledged by the said Robert Lord Clive that in or about the Month of December 1757 the then reigning Great Mogul or Emperor of Indostan Conferred the Degree or Honor of Munsubdury or Omir of the Empire of Indostan of the Rank of 6000 & 5000 Horse on the said Robert Lord Clive then Colonel Robert Clive Commander in Chief of the said Companys Military Forces in Bengal within the said Empire And also Reciting that it was further alledged by the said Robert Lord Clive that by a Perwannah or Grant from Meer Mahumed Jaffier aly Cawn the then Reigning Nabob of Bengal and also Nabob of the Provinces of Bahar and Orixa Conceived in the Language of the Country being the Persian Language Bearing Date in or about the Month of July in the Year of our Lord 1759 taking Notice that the said Honor had been Conferred by the said Imperial Court on the said Robert Lord Clive who had Exerted himself in Conjunction with the said Meer Jaffier with the most Steady Attachment and in the most Strenuous manner in the Protection of the Imperial Territories In Recompence whereof the Jaghire therein Described and Mentioned to amount to 222,958 Sicca Rupees And Something more conferred by the Dewannee Sunnud on the English Company as their Zemindaree (Meaning thereby the Rents reserved by a Grant made by the said Meer Jaffier to the said Company of Divers Lands in the said Province of Bengal in Pursuance of the Treaty made Between the said Company and the said Meer Jaffier in or about the Month of June 1757) we conferred upon the said Robert Lord Clive It was declared and Ordered by the said Perwannah that the said United Company should consider the said Robert Lord Clive as the Lawful Jaghirdar of that Place

And in the Same Manner as they the said Company formerly delivered in the Due Rents of the Government According to the Kistbundee into the Treasury of the Court and the Jaghire taking a Receipt in Manner therein Mentioned They the said Company were thenceforth in like Manner regularly to deliver to the before mentioned Jaghirdar (meaning the said Robert Lord Clive) the said Rents According to the Stated Payments and Receive a Receipt for the Same from the said Robert Lord Clive And also Reciting that the said Robert Lord Clive had by himself or his Attorney or Agents received out of the said Companys Treasury at their Presidency at Bengal aforesaid Several Sums of Money on Account of the said Jaghire or Jaghire Rents But that the Court of Directors of the said Company having Sent Orders to their Governor and Council of their said Presidency at Bengal not to Pay any more Money to the Agents of the said Robert Lord Clive on Account there of the said Robert Lord Clive in or about the Month of June 1763 Exhibited his Bill of Complaint in the high Court of Chancery of Great Britain against the said United Company and Several Persons therein Named as Parties thereto thereby saying that the Defendants might come to a just and fair Account with the said Robert Lord Clive touching the said Jaghire or Jaghire Rents and might be Compelled by the Decree of the said Court to Revoke the Several Orders Signed by the Defendants or any of them for the withholding or Stopping the Payment of the Arrears and Growing Payments of the said Jaghire And might also Pay unto the said Robert Lord Clive what should be found due to him together with Interest to be Computed after the Rate in India And all other Monies due or to become due to him in Respect of the Matters therein before Mentioned And that the Rents Profits and Produce of the said Jaghire might from Time to Time as the Same should become due be paid to the Agents of the said Robert Lord Clive in India in Order to be Remitted to England and laid out in Government Securities at Interest in the Name of the Accountant General of the said Court or that the said Company might Pay the same in England to be laid out as aforesaid until the hearing of the said Cause and for General Relief To which Bill the said Company and the other Defendants thereto appeared And put in their Several Answers But that the said Suit was not then at Issue And also Reciting that at a General Court of the said United Company then lately held It was Resolved that the said Robert Lord Clive should be Desired to take upon him the Offices of President and Governor of the said Companys Settlements at Bengal and Commander in Chief of their Forces there And that the said Robert Lord Clive having Consented thereto had been Appointed to the Aforesaid Officers by the Court of Directors of the said Company and had been Sworn in Accordingly and intended Shortly to Proceed to India And also Reciting

that at a General Court of the said United Company held on the Second day of the then Instant May a Proposal made by the said Robert Lord Clive to the Court of Directors of the said Company touching his Jaghire was laid before the said General Court for their Consideration and after a Ballot had and [sic] taken upon the Question Proposed It was at a General Court of the said United Company held on the Fifth day of the then Instant May by Adjournment from the said Second day of the same Month Resolved that it should be recommended to and that the Court of Directors of the said Company should be impowered to agree with the said Robert Lord Clive for the Payment of his Jaghire for the Space of Ten Years Provided the said Robert Lord Clive should so long live and the said Company should be in the Actual Possession of the Lands out of which it issued and the Revenues thereof during that Period of Time or to that Effect And further also Reciting that the Court of Directors of the said Company had in Pursuance of the said Resolution Agreed with the said Robert Lord Clive touching the Payment of his said Jaghire for the time aforesaid and upon the Terms and Conditions therein before and therein after mentioned It was by the said in part Recited Indenture Witnessed and the said United Company in Pursuance of the therein beforementioned Proposal and Agreement thereby Covenanted with the said Robert Lord Clive that the said United Company or their Agents or Servants should and would Yearly and every Year during the Term of Ten Years to be Computed from the said Fifth Day of the then Instant May Pay or Cause or to be paid out of the Said Company's Treasury at their Principal Settlement at Bengal unto the said Robert Lord Clive his Executors or Administrators or his or their Attorney or Attorneys Agent or Agents duly Authorized to Receive the same the full Amount of the said Jaghire or Jaghire Rents (the same being Computed at Two Hundred and Twenty two Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Eight Sicca Rupees Per Annum) and to be Payable and Paid Quarterly on the Fifth Days of May August November and February in every Year during the said Ten Years the First Payment thereof to begin and be made on the Fifth Day of August then next Ensuing And Further that they the said United Company should and would Pay and allow unto the said Robert Lord Clive or his Executors or Administrators his or their Attorney or Attornies Agent or Agents duly Authorized to Receive the same all the Arrears of the said Jaghire Rents which should be due and owing to the said Robert Lord Clive unto the said Fifth Day of the then Instant May if any such Arrears there were But it was thereby Provided and the said Robert Lord Clive thereby Covenanted with the said United Company that in Case the said Robert Lord Clive should happen to Depart this Life before the Expiration of the said Term of Ten Years to be

computed from the said Fifth day of the then Instant May then and in Such Case the said United Company should be Subject or liable to Pay or make good the said Jaghire Rents or Payments unto the Executors or Administrators of the Said Robert Lord Clive until the Day of the Death of the Said Robert Lord Clive and no longer And it was thereby also Provided that in Case the said United Company should not be in the Actual Possession of the Lands out of which the said Jaghire Issued and of the Revenues thereof to and for their own use for and During the said Term of Ten Years to Commence as aforesaid that Then and in such Case the said United Company should not be compelled or Compellable or Subject or liable to Pay the said Robt. Lord Clive his Executors or Administrators any further or other Part of the said Jaghire Rents than should Accrue due and become Payable during such the said Companys Actual Possession of the said Lands out of which the same Jaghire issued and of the Revenues thereof to and for their own use as in and by the said Recited Indenture Reference being thereunto had may (amongst other Things) more fully appear And whereas by a Resolution of a General Court of the said United Company held on the 23rd Day of September now last Past the said General Court then assembled did Nemine Contradicente in Consideration of the Important Services Rendered to the said Company by the said Robert Lord Clive Recommend it to and Impower the Court of Directors of the said Company to make a Grant under the said Company's Seal to the said Robert Lord Clive and his Personal Representatives of an Additional Term of Ten Years in his said Jaghire Commencing from the Determination of the said Lord Clive's Present Right therein Provided the said Company should be in the Possession of the Lands out of which the said Jaghire issued during such additional Term of Ten years Now this Ind're Witnesseth that in Pursuance of the said Resolution and in Consideration of the many Important Services rendered to the said United Company by the said Robert Lord Clive and Also in consideration of the Sum of 10s. of Lawful Money of Great Britain by the said Robert Lord Clive to the said United Company Paid at or before the Execution of these Presents (the Receipt whereof is hereby Acknowledged) and for Divers other good Causes and Valuable Considerations the said United Company thereunto especially moving they the said United Company Do hereby Covenant Promise and Agree to and with the said Robert Lord Clive his Executors Adm'ors and Ass.s. That they the said United Company or their Agents or Servants shall and will Yearly and every Year During the Term of Ten Years to Commence and be Computed from the 5th Day of May which will be in the Year of our Lord 1774 in Case the said Robert Lord Clive shall be then

Living or otherwise in Case the said Robert Lord Clive shall happen to Die before the said 5th Day of May 1774 Then to Commence from and immediately after the Death of the said Robert Lord Clive well and Truly Pay or cause to be paid out of the said United Companys Treasury at their Principal Settlement in Bengal unto the said Robert Lord Clive his Executors Administrators Asss or his or their Attorney or Attornies Agent or Agents duly Authorized to Receive the Same the Full Amount of the said Jaghire or Jaghire Rents the same being Computed at 222958 Sicca Rupees Per Annum and to be Payable and Paid by four equal Quarterly Payments in each Year the First Quarterly Payment thereof to begin And be made at the End of Three Calendar Months Next after the Day of the Death of the said Robert Lord Clive or Next after the said 5th Day of May 1774 which of those Days shall first happen Provided always Nevertheless And it is hereby further Mutually Declared and Agreed by and Between the said Parties hereto that in Case the said United Company shall not be in the Actual Possession of the Lands out of which the said Jaghire Issues and of the Revenues thereof to and for their own use for and during the said Additional Term of Ten Years hereby Granted to Commence as aforesaid That Then and in such Case the said United Company shall not be Compelled or Compellable or Subject or liable to Pay to the said Robert Lord Clive his Executors Administrators or Assigns any further or other Part of the said Jaghire Rents then shall Accrue due and become Payable during such the said United Company's Actual Possession of the said Lands out of which the same Jaghire Issues and the Revenues thereof to and for their own use In Witness whereof to one Part of these indentures the said United Company have Caused their Common Seal to be affixed And to the other Part thereof the said Robert Lord Clive hath set his hand and Seal the Day and Year First above Written

*Enclosure 3*COPY OF THE MEMORIAL TO THE  
EARL OF SHELburnE*(20 November 1767)*

To the Right Hon'ble the Earl of Shelburne His Majesty's Principal  
Secretary of State for the Southern Department.

The Humble Memorial of the Court of Directors of the United  
Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

SHEWETH.

That their Governor and Council in Bengal did on or about the 21st June 1765 at the Request of Mr. Law de Lawriston Governor of the French Factory at Chandernagore permit One Officer, Twenty European Infantry with One hundred Seapoys to be entertained at Chandernagore and Fifty of the latter at each of the Settlements subordinate thereto, also to allow them a Wall at Chandernagore, such as the French formerly held at Cossimbuzar and Twenty Pieces of Cannon, not of a heavier Weight than Six Pounders, with five Artillery Men for working them for the Purpose of securing themselves and their Effects from the Inroads and Sudden Attacks of the Enemies to the Country Powers and of imposing a proper Respect on the People of the Country.

That nevertheless their Governor and Council reserved to themselves the Right of withdrawing the abovementioned Permission whenever they might have reason to apprehend an Improper Use would be made of it, for further Particulars in which Matters Your Memorialists beg leave to refer Your Lordship to the accompanying Extracts.

That the Season of the Year advancing in which Your Memorialists send out their Ships to the East Indies, they have again taken the said Matter into their Consideration, and although they are unwilling to make any unreasonable Opposition to the Re-Settlement of the French Factories, but on the contrary are desirous that the Persons and Effects of the French should be protected and secured from the Enterprizes of Robbers and the Insults of the People of the Country, in which light only Your Memorialists see the Indulgence granted by their Governor and Council yet in a matter of such Importance as this appears to them to be, Your Memorialists humbly beg leave to lay the same before Your Lordship and to entreat that Your Memorialists may receive



His Majesty's Royal Instructions upon the subject Matter of the inclosed Papers.

East India House, London  
the 20th November 1767  
Presented 23 ditto by  
Chairman & Deputy.

Signed by Order of the said  
Court of Directors  
Robert James  
Secry.

*Enclosure 4*

REFERENCES TO THE EXTRACTS WHICH  
ACCOMPANIED THE ABOVE LETTER  
TO LORD SHELBURNE

Copy of the Minute on Bengal Consultation 21st June 1765 relating to the Letter from Mr. Law.

Copy of the Minute on the said Consultation 24th June 1765 upon receiving a Letter from Mr. Law.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Law at Chandernagore dated 15th June 1765 to the President and Council at Bengal.

Copy of a Letter from the Duc de Praslin to Mr. Bertin enclosed in the last Mentioned Letter from Mr. Law.

Copy of the 15th & 16th Paragraphs of the General Letter from Bengal dated 30th September 1765.

Copy of the 18th & 19th Paragraphs of the General Letter to Bengal dated 17th May 1766.

*Enclosure 5*

COPY OF THE LETTER FROM EARL OF SHELBURNE

Whietchall 27 January 1768.

Gentlemen

I have laid before the King Your Memorial dated the 20th of November last, setting forth that the Governor and Council of Bengal had on or about the 21st June 1765 at the Request of Mr. Law de Lawriston Governor of the French Factory at Chandernagore, permitted a certain Number of Europeans and Seapoys to be entertained at Chandernagore and the Settlements Subordinate thereto and had also allowed them a Wall at Chandernagore such as they formerly had at Cossimbuzar and Twenty Pieces of Cannon, not

exceeding Six Pounders for the purpose of securing themselves and their Effects, from the Inroads and Attacks of the Enemies to the Country Powers, and of imposing a proper Respect on the People of the Country, but had reserved to themselves, nevertheless a Power of withdrawing the said Permission, whenever they should have any Reason to apprehend an improper use of it. And enclosing to me Extracts from the Consultations of the President and Council at Fort William in Bengal, in which such agreement appears, together with an Extract of your General Letter to Bengal of the 17th May 1766 in which You approve of the same, and lastly praying, in a matter of such Importance, to receive His Majesty's Royal Instructions.

I cannot conceal from You His Majesty's Surprize that so extraordinary a Transaction with a Foreign Power, by which the Articles of a Treaty of Peace have been Dispensed with, should have passed in India by the Sole Authority of the Companys Servants and have received your Approbation at Home without Your having previously attempted to know His Majesty's Opinion or receive His Commands, upon so hazardous a Concession, The Article of the Treaty of Paris, with regard to Bengal, was made at the desire of the Company; France submitted to the Restrictions, however severe, that were laid upon her Trade, thoroughly apprized of the helpless Situation, Her Comptoirs would be left in, To soften the Strong Prohibitory Letter and Spirit of a Treaty, and to carry Indulgence so very Far, as to allow them Twenty Pieces of Cannon, were measures so important in their Consequences, both to the Company and to the Publick, as to require not only the Wisdom of his Majesty to consider, but also the Power of the Crown to confirm.

But as the Recalling of such a Permission, after its having been once agreed to by the Company's Servants abroad, confirmed by their Directors at home, and acquiesced in, so long as since June 1765 might be productive of Misunderstanding between the two Companies, This matter is now become a different Consideration and of far greater Delicacy, then it would have been originally, if duly submitted to His Majesty previous to any Step whatever having been taken. His Majesty on this Account, is pleased to allow, That the matter should remain in its Present Situation, until the Affairs of the Company shall be settled upon a more solid and Permanent Footing—In the mean Time, I have His Majesty's Command to acquaint You, that he expects the Company shall keep a most watchfull Eye on the Conduct and proceedings of the French in Bengal, so that, upon the slightest Appearance of any insidious Machination in Consequence of the Permission granted to them

You and Your Servants in Bengal shall be ready to assert Your Right of withstanding it

I am with great Truth and Regard  
Gentlemen

Your most Obedient  
Humble Servant  
Shelburne

White hall  
27th Janrv 1768

[ Copy Letter from the Earl of Shelburne /No 26 ]



*Enclosure 6*

COPY OF A LETTER FROM MR. P. MICHELL  
TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

(30 March 1768)

Gentlemen,

I am ordered by the Court of Directors to acquaint you, that since the departure of the Ships Ankerwyke, Salisbury and Talbot, they have appointed Mr James Moore a Cadet on your Military Establishment, in the Room and with the Rank of Mr James Figge, who declines proceeding in that Station

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most Obedient  
Humble Servant  
P Michell, Secry

East India House  
London, 30th March 1768

To the Hon'ble the President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

[1768 / London/Mr Michell/Dated the 30th March/Rec'd the 21th Sept ]

## LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1768

*List of military officers and cadets sent*

OUR President and Council at Fort William In Bengal.

1. By the Ship Lord Holland arrived the 28th ultimo at Falmouth we have received your following Advices vizt.

General Letter dated the 26th August 1767 with a Postscript  
1 Septe.

Do.....with a Postscript  
14 & 24 Septemr.

Select Committee's Letter ..... 25th September.

Do..... 6th October.

2. We observe with particular pleasure the great readiness you have shewn in sending a Reinforcement to assist our Presidency at Fort St. George in their Operations upon that Coast, and we hope the spirited and vigorous measures which have been mutually pursued, will soon reduce Hyder Ally and the Nazim of the Dekan to accept of such Terms as will lay the Foundation of a permanent and lasting tranquility on that Coast.

3. We have the agreeable prospect to see our Possessions in Bengal still remain in a State of perfect Tranquility. We hope the Inundations which have happened in several parts of the Country will not occasion any considerable decrease in our Revenues or Investment.

4. We have detained this Ship in the Downes to advise you of the arrival of the Lord Holland but as the season is far advanced We have not time to write you more fully by this Conveyance.

We are

Your loving Friends

Thos. Rous/Thos. Saunders/Geo Dudley/W. Cruttenden/  
Hy. Crabb Boulton/J. Manship/Ja: Cockburn/Heny.  
Savage/Peter Du Cane Junr./Ben. Booth/Pere Cust/G.  
Colebrooke/J. Pardoe/Edwd. Wheler/Luke Scrafton/Rob.  
Jones/John Stephenson/William Snell/George Cuming/  
John Roberts/F. W. Barrington.

London, 5th April 1768.

*List of Military Officers and Cadets Appointed this Season for the Company's  
Troops in Bengal with the Order in which they are to rank*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Infantry</i>	<i>Rank &amp; Dates of Commissions in Kings Service</i>
Hon ble George Sempill	Lieutenant Colonel	Major	31st January 1766
Matthew Leslie gone home	—do—	Captain	27th October 1760
William English dead	Major	—do—	31st December 1769
John Morrisson gone away	—do—	—do—	18th October 1761
William Blair	—do—	—do—	31st December 1762
William Popham	Captain	—do—	4th February 1767
William Cosby	—do—	—do—	15th November 1765
Alexander Rose dead	—do—	Captain Lieutenant	25th February 1767
George Burrington	—do—	—do—	9th October 1757
Benjamin Ashe	—do—	Lieutenant	27th January 1760
William Thomson	—do—	—do—	29th do 1760
James Foreman	—do—	—do—	21st April
William Peake dead	—do—	—do—	10th May
Joseph Wm Crabb	—do—	—do—	6th October 1761
Benjamin Wroe	—do—	—do—	19th do 1761
Timothy Edwards	—do—	—do—	28th do 1761
Christopher Horsfall	—do—	—do—	30th September 1763
Roger Hogg	Captain Lieutenant	—do—	2nd do 1760
William Lane	Lieutenant	—do—	7th March
William Watson	—do—	—do—	14th September
John Scott	—do—	—do—	18th do
Michael Bruce	—do—	—do—	28th October
Walter Barland	—do—	—do—	20th December
Martin Gilpin	—do—	—do—	22nd October 1761
Richard Lucas	—do—	—do—	16th December
John Dupont	—do—	Astt. Lieutenant	31st do
Walter Maynard	—do—	—do—	22nd April 1762
Henry Atkinson	—do—	—do—	22nd August 1762
Thomas Scott	—do—	—do—	9th September

*Rank & Dates of  
Commissions  
in King's Service*

*Infantry*

*Appointment*

*Name*

Robert Mc.Nab	Lieutenant	Lieutenant	29th September 1762
Thomas Carroll	—do—	Second Lieutenant Marines	31st July
Russell Arden	—do—	Ensign	22nd March
Anthony Hartle	—do—	—do—	1st August
Alexander Munro	—do—	—do—	25th September 1761
James Gould	—do—	Cadet Royal Artillery	

*Artillery*

*in Bengal*

*Lieutenant Colonel*

Fleming Martin

Thomas Deane Pearce

David Rosal

James Burnett

James Mayaffie

Thomas Nepean

James Cockburn

Francis Moore

Thomas Harris

James Irwin

Justly Hill

George Sampson

Thomas Cooper Everitt

Charles Fitzgerald

John Insley

George Deare

Robert Dawes

First Lieutenant  
Lieutenant Fireworker  
—do—

Lieutenant Fireworker

Major

Captain

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

—do—

Cadets Royal Academy at  
Woolwich

3rd February 1766  
15th August 1760  
12th November 1762

*Engineers*

Archibald Campbell.....Principal with rank of Lieut Colonel.....Extra Engineer with rank of Captain  
Lieutenant 25th February 1765?  
James Lillyman.....Director with rank of Major.....Sub Engineer with rank of Lieutenant  
20th December 1765.

*Cadets*

Robert Williams/Foster Joshua Pearkes Bentley/Lewis Grant/  
 Robert Dennis/Stephen Downes/Thomas Fletcher/Richard Way/  
 Archibald Mactavish/Stephen Read/Thomas Elde/Thomas Probyn/  
 Edward Eyre Burges/George Kealing/Thomas Palgreave/Nathaniel  
 Chaplain Bartlett/James England/Thomas Comfort<sup>1</sup>/William Great  
 rake/William Marsh/William Sandys/Charles Herbert White/Lewis  
 Smith/Thomas Martin Leake/John Bateman/Nicholas Starkie/John  
 Campbell (of Irwin)/Tunner Camac/John Scott/John Bell/Camp  
 Lauzan/Benjamin Cunningham/Donald Campbell/Solomon Earl/  
 William Hyde/Johnston Wrightson/Peter Hitchcocke/William  
 Williamson/William Harris/John Haye/Charles Moxon/George  
 Stephen Hearsay/George Young/Richard Fennell/Robert Baillie/  
 Thomas Hall/Christopher Redshow/Robert Maxwell/John Cartyle/  
 James Figge/George Mence/Richard French/James Smith/St John  
 Charles Levingstone/Thomas Boulton/Henry Harvey/John Mosley/  
 Lewis Doxal<sup>2</sup>/Walter Burke/David Congalton/George Bennet/  
 William Watkins/Patrick Hay/John Grant/Archibald Hooke/Alex  
 ander Macdonald/Robert Keith<sup>3</sup>/Robert Pryse Evors/Alexander  
 Christie/James Stewart/[ ] Clements/Richard Scott/John Wall-  
 cott/John Luttrell

Philip Robinson for the Train	
Samuel Farmer	do
Charles Chatfield	do

East India House  
 London 18th March 1768

P Michell  
 Secry.

## 13

## LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1768

*Secret Committee of the Directors—articles for export—Bengal  
 not to withhold supply of specie for China investment and to send  
 supplies to Madras and Bombay—remedies suggested for the promo-  
 tion of cotton manufacture in Bengal—views concerning currency  
 situation and land revenue collection—Bolts to be deported to*

*Europe—reference to abuse of dastaks—greater circumspection demanded concerning military awards—permission given to borrow at interest for one year.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last General Letter to you was dated the 16th March 1768 and went in Triplicate by The Ships Ankerwyke, Salisbury and Talbot.—On the 30th of that Month Our Secretary wrote a short Letter by the Grenville to advise you of the Appointment of James Moore a Cadet on your Establishment, and on the 5th April following we advised you by the Essex, Grenville and York of the receipt of your Advices by the Lord Holland.

2. The several Letters which have come To hand from your Presidency since that Period are as follow.—

General Letter dated 10th December 1767 recd. P. Norfolk 12th June 1768.  
Letter from the Select Committee 16th do.....do

General Letter..... 31st recd.... do..... } recd. P. Europa.  
Letter from the Select Committee ... 5th Janry 1768. } 3rd July.

General Letter..... 1st February. } recd. P. Earl of  
Letter from the Select Committee ... 3rd February. } Elgin 15th Augst.

General Letter..... 22nd February. } recd. P. Northington  
Letter from the Select Committee ... 29th February. } 23rd Augst.

General Letter..... 14th and 26th March. } Recd. P. Admiral  
Letter from the Select Committee ... 24th do..... } Pocock  
Letter from President Verelst ..... 28th do..... } 10th October.

3. The accompanying List will shew you the several Ships that have imported here from India and China in the course of this Season.

4. We send this by the Ship Lioness destined for the Coast and Bay to carry our early advices of this Season, and by her we shall proceed to acquaint you as usual with the disposition of the Shipping enter[.....] in our Service, Our intended Exports and such Directions and Observations as may appear necessary to be given at present, in consequence of your beforementioned Advices and the Occurrences here since we last wrote to you.

5. The entire Cargo of the Lioness being Consigned to your Presidency, she is ordered to touch at Fort St. George only for the purpose of landing her Packets and Passengers, together with



such of the Cases (That were not compleated in time for the Ships of last Season) containing the remainder of the Apparatus with Books and Printed Instructions for making Observations on the Transit of Venus in June next, as are intended for the use of that and the Bombay Presidency

6 The Gentlemen whom we have Constituted our Secret Committee for the present Year are Henry Crabb Boulton Esqre Churman and Sir George Colebrook Bart Deputy Chairman of our Court with Peregrine Cust, John Harrison, Robert Jones, Frederick Pigou and John Purling Esqrs and the Orders which they or any three of them may think proper to give as to the Safety of our Ships either Outward or Homeward Bound, must be punctually complied with

7 In order to extend the Company's [Trade?] so far as their present Circumstances will admit of, and that we may receive as ample Investments in The Several Products of India and China as can be made agreeable to the Orders we have and shall give upon that Subject We have entertained Thirty one Ships for the Company's Service this Season, whose Names, Commanders, and Consignments will appear by the following List vizt

Lioness	Capt William Larkins	Coast and Bay
Royal Charlotte	John Clements	} Maderia & Coast & Bay
Britannia	Robert Rous	
Neptune	Arthur Gore	Maderia & Coast & China
Pigot	George Richardson	Theneriffe & Coast & China
Duke of Albany	Alexander Stewart	St Helena & Bencoolen
Havannah	John White	} Coast and China
Earl of Lincoln	Peter Hardwicke	
Plassey	John Waddell	
Devonshire	Mathew Hore	
Earl of Ashburnham	Richard Peirce	
Osterley	David Welch	
Nottingham	Peter Stoakes	
Hector	Stephen Williams	
Triton	William Elphinstone	
Norfolk	James Buggin	
Glatton	Richard Doveton	} China directly
Cruttenden	William Baker	
Speke	Jeffery Jackson	St Helena & China
Earl of Middlesex	John Rogers	Bencoolen & China
Hampshire	John Smith	Theneriffe & Bombay
Lord Holland	Fasham Nairne	Theneriffe & Coast & Bay
Duke of Grafton	Brook Sampson	} Coast and Bay
Duke of Wales	Jonathan Court	
Duke of Kingston	Richard Morrison	
Anson	John Jennox	

Deptford  
Duke of Cumberland  
Lord Camden  
Speaker  
Fox

William Tryon  
Augustus Savage  
Nathaniel Smith  
Robert Scott  
Alexander Hume

Maderia & Bombay.  
Bombay & Mocha.  
Bombay & China.  
} Bombay.

8. By the Charter parties of the said Ship which will be enclosed to you as usual their Burthen, Terms and Conditions on which they are taken up, will appear to be the same as for the Ships of the past Season described in our Letter of the 20th November 1767 Para. 5.

9. We have directed the Presidency of Fort St. George to forward to you with all possible Expedition such Ships as May be ordered to call there in their way to Bengal, and we have ordered them to use the like dispatch with regard to the China Ships that may be Ordered to touch at Fort St. George for delivering Consignments and Recruits for that Presidency.

10. The Lord Camden being destined to proceed from Bombay to China, it will be necessary That you give Our Presidency of Bombay all The Assistance in your Power towards compleating her Stock for China. We have Ordered her to be dispatched thither from the Mallabar Coast in the Month of April 1770.

11. The Duke of Cumberland you will also observe is to be sent about The same time from Bombay To Mocha, and should that Presidency be in want of Aid in any respect for furnishing her with a sufficient Cargo for [the] Mocha Market, you must give all in your Power.

12. And should any Misfortune happen to either of the Ships Lord Camden or Duke of Cumberland so as to prevent their prosecuting the Voyages assigned the[.....] to China and Mocha in 1770 as abovementioned then the Fox is to supply the Place of either of the above Ships.

13. We have ordered the Hampshire to be sent from Bombay to your Presidency as soon after her Arrival as possible with a Cargo of Cotton and other Goods proper for the Bengal Market, from whence she is to be returned with Salt Petre to Bombay in order to assist in the Tonnage from that Presidency to Europe, unless you shall be in want of an Additional Ship to carry home your Investment; and in that case you have our Permission to return her to us from Bengal.

14. Our Directors for some Years past concerning the early Dispatch home of The several Ships intended to be returned in the same Season of their Arrival in India, as also The equal Distribution of such Surplus Tonnage as may be laden on them, must appear to

you with that weight and Propriety, that we shall only now direct your strict Adherence to them, and in order thereto to Consult the necessary Measures with our Presidencies of Fort St George and Bombay accordingly

15 The General Court of Proprietors have thought proper on the 22nd June last to take into their Consideration, the cases of the several Commanders and Officers of Ships employed in the Company's Service who [had?] been Dismissed by the Court of Directors for carrying out Illicit Trade to India, and of Captain Peter Pigou who also stood Dismissed for landing part of his Private Trade at Lisbon in his homeward bound Voyage, also of Captain Barnaby Bartlett who was under Dismission for the loss of his Ship in the English Channel thro manifest Ignorance want of Seaman ship and Neglect of Duty, likewise of several Officers who were under the like Sentence for various Offences, did agree with the Court of Directors to restore to the Company's Service

Captain Peter Pigou late Commander of the Ship British King,  
also

The undermentioned Officers of several Ships

Peter Bearsley  
Samuel Bull  
Robert Fairfull  
Abraham Filmore  
Sober Hall  
James Huggins  
Henry Lock  
Robert Maw  
James Ogilvie, and  
Nathaniel Paul

16 But at the same time the General Court judging the Offences of the following Persons too flagrant to come within the Act of their Forgiveness, did also concur in Opinion with the Court of Directors, that Captain Richard Lewin late Commander of the

Vansittart

Captain Edward Lord Chick late Commander of the  
Anson

Captain John Webb late Commander of the  
London

Captain Thomas Howe late Commander of the  
Nottingham

Captain Edward Roch late Commander of the  
Fort William

Captain Edmund Massey late Commander of the  
Hector

Captain George Hepburn late Commander of the  
Falmouth, and

Captain Barnaby Bartlett late Commander of the  
Lord Clive

should not be restored to the Company's Service.

17. Altho' the General Court of Proprietors upon our Recommendation as you are above informed were pleased to restore to the Company's Service Messrs Paul, Hall and Lock the Chief, 2nd and 3rd Mates of the Nottingham, yet as we find Mr. George Russell the 4th Mate of that Ship did run away at Bengal whereby his Crime is much Aggravated, We have come to a Resolution that he be rendered incapable of serving the Company in future and therefore should he be at your Presidency he is to be sent to England on the first Ship that sails after the Receipt of these Advices.

18. We had settled the Terms on which the Ships of this Year were taken up before we received your Letter desiring us to obtain a Clause in the Charterparty for the early Dispatch of Ships from your Presidency. But we shall take the same into Consideration next Year.

19. The Articles of which our Export this Season will chiefly consist are as under vizt.

*For Bengal*

Cloth 1320 Bales; Long Ells 60 Bales of Twenty Pieces each, 85 Bales of Broad long Ells of Ten Pieces each and 4 Bales of Sundries; Lead 330 Tons; Copper 367 Tons, Iron 200 Tons; Steel 10 Tons; Gun Powder 880 whole Barrels; Small Arms 820 Chests; Madeira Wine 150 Pipes and Vidonia Wine 100 Pipes.

The Bales will be sent in equal Proportions on the Lioness, New Ship Captain Samson, Prince of Wales, Duke of Kingston and Anson.

*For Fort St. George*

Cloth 676 Bales, Long Ells 30 Bales of Twenty Pieces each and 7 Bales of Sundries; Lead 100 Tons; Copper 230 Tons, Iron 200 Tons; Small Arms 844 Chests; 1000 Barrels of Gunpowder of 60 lbs each or 600 whole Barrels; Madeira Wine 100 Pipes and Vidonia Wine 80 Pipes.

The Bales will be divided equally on the Ships Havannah and Nottingham.

*For Bombay*

For the Bombay Market—Cloth 1367 Bales, Long Ells 160 Bales of Twenty pieces each, Broad Long Ells 25 Bales of Ten pieces each and 5 Bales of Sundries, Lead 200 Tons, Copper 155 Tons, Iron 200 Tons, Steel 50 Tons, Tin 500 Tons, Small Arms 45 Chests, Gun Powder 100 whole Barrels, Madeira Wine 50 Pipes and Vidonia Wine 20 Pipes

For the Bussorah Market—Cloth 107 Bales

For the Scindy Market—Cloth 104 Bales and 46 Bales of Long Ells of Twenty Pieces in each

The abovementioned Cloth for Bombay and Subordinates is to be shipped equally on the Hampshire, Deptford, Duke of Cumberland Lord Camden Speaker and Fox

*For Fort Marlborough*

Fine Iron 100 Tons Steel 20 Tons, Gunpowder 30 whole Barrels, Flour 30 Tons, Beef and Pork 40 Half Hogsheds of each, Cordage 66 Tons which latter will be laden on the Duke of Albany, and most of the other Articles on the Earl of Middlesex

As the Exigencies of this Settlement may require a further Aid of several Articles than will be given from hence this Year, you must therefore yield it in such manner, as their wants may call for, and your Ability enables you

And as we do not design to send any Treasure to Bencoolen by the Ships of this Season, you and our Fort St George Servants must supply the Necessities of those at Bencoolen in this Particular

*For Canton*

Cloth 1029 Bales, Long Ells 1000 Bales of 20 Pieces in each Camblets 78 Bales of 20 Pieces in each, Hairbines 25 Bales of 20 Pieces each, and Lead [     ] Tons

You are in part advised of the Distribution on the several Ships of our abovementioned Export this Season, and as to the rest, the Articles will be proportionably divided on the Ships bound to our respective Presidencies and China

20 By the said Account of Exports you will Observe we intend to send you 150 Pipes of Madeira Wine, which we have given directions to Our Agents at that Island to Ship in the following manner, for which they are to Transmit you Invoices, Bills of Lading &c as usual, vizt

By Messrs Chambers & Co. 50 Pipes each on the Royal Charlotte & Britannia	100 Pipes
By Messrs Scott & Co. 25 each on the same Ships	50
	<hr/>
	150
	<hr/>

21. You will also observe in the said Account that 100 Pipes of Vidonia Wine are to be consigned to you on the Ship Lord Holland by our Correspondents at Theneriffe vizt. 60 Pipes by Messrs Collogans and 40 Pipes by Messrs Commyns & Co. who are likewise Ordered to Transmit you the Invoices, Bills of Lading &c. for the same.

22. The usual Survey must be made in regard to the Quality and Leakage of the beforementioned Madeira and Vidonia Wines, which is to be transmitted to us.—The said Wines are to be divided amongst Our Servants at your Presidency agreeable to our Directions communicated in the Years 1766 and 1767.

23. From the above Consignments of Wine, You are to set apart Five Pipes of Madeira and Five Pipes of Vidonia for the use of our Presidency of Fort Marlborough to be sent thither by the first good Conveyances that shall offer.—Our Presidency of Fort St. George have also directions for furnishing the same Quantities out of the Consignments to them.

24. We are well pleased to find by your Advices that the Madeira and Vidonia Wines which you received in 1767 proved good, and as we have taken every precaution in our Power to supply you with the best of those Wines this Season, we hope to receive from you the like favorable report with regard to them.

25. In respect to the Medicines and Drugs sent you this Year (which are all supplied by the Apothecaries Company) or that may be hereafter sent, let our Orders of the 20th November last be annually obeyed.

26. Messrs Henry Revell, Hillary Torriano, Stephen De Visme, Francis Wood, Benjamin Torin, Edward Phipps, William Rous, Thomas Bevan, William Harrison, Matthew Raper, John Bradby Blake and James Bradshaw are appointed by us to manage the Company's Affairs in China for the Season of 1769, respecting the beforementioned Sixteen Ships which are consigned to them and Messrs De Visme, Wood, Torin, Phipps, Bevan, Harrison, Raper and Blake are appointed our Residents there in 1770.

27. The Balance of Tales 1180191 remaining in the hands of the China Supra on the 21st February last The 21 Lacks sent

from your Presidency to Madras and Bombay to be forwarded from thence to China, in Silver, with the Aids expected from those two Presidencies and the Cargoes Consigned from hence to China, on the Ships of the last Season, will we make no doubt put our Treasury at Canton in a Situation to give full Cargoes to the Ships to be dispatched from thence in the Season of 1768 and leave a Surplus for providing Cargoes for those now proceeding thither

28 We remark with very great Surprize your desiring the Presidency of Madras to appropriate 3 Lacks of the Money destined for the Supply to China for the use of the Military Operations on the Coast We must suppose you mean to replace That Sum in time for The China Ships, for you will incur our highest Displeasure if you withhold any part of the Supply for China, on pretence of not being able to furnish them, when at the very time of writing it you have a Balance of upwards of 34 Lacks of Rupees in your Treasury and Cash, besides great Advances already made at the Aurungs for the ensuing Investment

29 The enlargement of the Trade to China to its utmost Extent, is an object we have greatly at heart, not only from the Advantages in prospect, by gaining a Superiority and thereby discouraging Foreign Europeans from resorting to that Market, but also from a National Concern, wherein the Revenue is very materially interested therefore to prevent all disappointments from the want of a sufficient Stock in China for providing Cargoes for the Ships now bound thither We have resolved to send from hence the Sum of £200,000 in Silver, this with the Balance that shall remain in the Supra Cargoes hands, the present Export of £163 159 and the supplies that shall according to our positive Orders of the 20th November 1767 be sent to Canton We are firmly persuaded will be fully sufficient not only to enable our Supra Cargoes to provide Loadings for the said Ships to the amount of £40 000 each as we now direct but also leave a large Balance for the Year 1770 in their hands

30 As it is possible that the strong Apprehensions of a Scarcity of Silver expressed in your last Advices may have induced you either partially or entirely to have withheld the Supplies directed by our Letters to you of the 20th November 1767 to be sent from your Presidency to China for providing

Para 33 an Investment for the Ships now proceeding thither, which might involve our Affairs there in the greatest difficulties We have in that case given positive Orders by this Conveyance to the President and Council at Fort St George to apply to the amount of £200,000, or such part thereof as they may require to

make up the deficiency in the expected Aid of Twenty four Lacks of Rupees from Bengal, and to raise the same by Loans on Bond, on the best Terms they shall be able if the State of their Treasury shall oblige them to borrow the whole or part of that Sum, which they are to send to Canton by the Ships now appointed to touch at Fort St. George, in their way to China. And we have directed that Presidency to apply to you, to remit them to the amount of the Sum which they shall borrow for that purpose and you are hereby positively Ordered to comply therewith.

31. Since writing the foregoing, Our Anxiety to have our China Investment provided for, has suggested to us that you may supply them with Money, by Dispatching one or two of our Pilot Sloops, with such Supply as the state of your Treasury will admit to Ganjam or Vizagapatam, and thence to be sent under proper Escort overland to Madras, or if you think it equally secure and more Expeditious, such Treasure may be dispatched Overland from Balasore, so as to reach Madras before our China Ships of this Year sail from thence.

32. As a further means of assisting this valuable branch of our Commerce, we have come to a Resolution to empower the China Council for the Year 1769, to receive into the Company's Cash there, so far as to the value of two hundred thousand Pounds, for Bills of Exchange on us. And in order to encourage the Payment of Money into the Council's hands accordingly, that Bills be drawn for the same at the rate of 5s. 2d. for the weighty new Mexico or Milled Dollar, payable at 90 days after Sight; but that the said Council do make it an absolute condition with the Remitters that notwithstanding the above term of Payment, it shall be at our Option to extend it to any further Period within 365 Days from Acceptance of the Drafts that we may think fit, allowing Interest on the Amount thereof, at the rate of 3 P Cent P Annum, after the Expiration of the said first 90 Days.

33. As no Excuse can avail our respective Presidencies in withholding any Assistance that can possibly be derived from our Acquisitions and Revenues under their Directions, we expect and require, that your Activity be exerted in Concert with the other Presidencies to supply our China Council with the amount of at least Twenty four Lacks of Rupees, for the Service of the Year 1770 to provide for the Ships that shall be Ordered thither in that Year & to leave a sufficient Surplus with them for opening the Investmts. of the following Year, and we positively direct, that you do not, under any pretence whatsoever, omit to supply them with that Sum.



34 You must continue to supply our other Presidencies with such Sums as they may apply to you for to answer their various demands agreeably to the Orders we shall give them for so doing We commend the Attention you have shewn to this object in sending such ample Supplies to Fort St George for carrying on the Military Operations on that Coast and in procuring Bills in favor of Bombay for 7 Lacks from the Merchants at Moorshedabad, and notwithstanding you think this last method of Remittance cannot be repeated by reason of the Balance of Trade being much in favor of that Presidency, we cannot see the state of Trade between the two Presidencies in that light and must insist on the Resident at the Duibars Watching every Opportunity to get the like Drafts for your future Supplies to Bombay, it being our intention to avoid as much as possible the sending of Treasure from Bengal for the use of the other Presidencies that you may be the better enabled to give the necessary Supplies thereof to our China Trade

35 As our Sales are not finished we do not propose to go into the Subject of the Investment at large, but shall only give our general Sentiments on what appears on the face of your Letters and Proceedings

36 We have perused with great Attention, Mr Bathoes report of the Burdwan Aurungs Mr Cartiers Letter on the Sale of Ferritt Goods on Consultation 5th October the Letters  
 General Lre from from the Gentlemen at Dacca on Consulta  
 10 Decr 1767 Pa 42 tion The 9th February and 14th March 1768  
 Mr Vernet's Letter on Consultation 8th June 1767 Governor Verelst's Letter to us of the 28 March 1768 and the 78th and five following Paragraphs of Mr Bolts's Letter to us all relative to the difficulty of obtaining Goods equal to our Demands and The Disputes with the Foreign Companies thereon

37 We are not at all convinced that the greatness of the demand will account for the Difficulty you meet with, from what we learn from different parts of your Letters and Consultations on the Scarcity of Silver we perceive the Trade to the Gulph bears no sort of proportion to what it was some Years since and an encrease of 20 Lacks in our demands for our Europe Cargos cannot be set against the diminution of the great Exportation which used to be to Judda and Bussorah which formerly yielded a return of Thirty or Forty Lacks in Gold and Silver and now you represent it as not yielding a return of more than five or Six

38 We can ascribe your difficulties to nothing but the oppressed State the Weavers have been in for some Years, which

has occasioned many of them to fling up their Looms, this is evident from many parts of the Letters herein quoted, from which it appears that Force is exerted to make the Weavers undertake the Company's Business, which they are unwilling to engage in because we do not pay them a fair Price.—The Gentlemen at Dacca say the Foreigners give 20 and 30 P Cent more than we do, but the Fact that comes the strongest to the point is The Sale of the Ferritt and Damaged Goods which sold at Public Auction from 10 to 100 P Cent advance, a clear Proof of the injustice done to the Weavers, at once Accounts for this reluctance to work for the Company; and violence being added to that, we are no longer to seek for the reasons why so many of them quit their Looms.—There cannot be a stronger Picture of Oppression than these Letters have laid open to us, and we are filled with Anxiety, when we reflect that the Remedies you propose are infinitely worse than the disease.

39. Altho' we are persuaded the Gentlemen at Dacca write from a real Zeal for our Service, and we Esteem their voluntary

Cons. 9th Febry.  
14th March 1768. Offer of a restraint on their own Purchases as a Proof of it, yet we cannot but Testific our Surprize at their Erroneous Judgement in proposing to Co-operate with Foreigners. Judge then our Opinion of the Idea you suggest to us of your providing the Investment for the Foreign Companies and by that Monopolizing the whole

Select Comtees. Lre.  
3rd Febry. 1768 Pa. 7. Manufactures of the Country; This would at once ma[ke] all The Weavers in the Kingdom Slaves to the English, and to the lowest of their Servants; accountable to The English for all the Cloth they make, they would be exposed to the Researches of every Seapoy, Pcon and every low Informer; therefore such a measure would be destructive of all the Manufactures of the Country, and every exertion of Power, every measure that checks The Freedom of Commerce increases the evil you complain of.

40. You Suffer much in our Opinion for having entertained such an Idea, but should you have presumed to have carried it into Execution without waiting our Sentiments on such an important point it will not only lessen the favorable Opinion we entertain of your Abilities, but we shall deem you highly reprehensible.

41. If the influence of Power is to be Exerted in procuring Goods, what Benefit could you propose to us in suffering Foreigners to avail themselves of that Power for all they could obtain from you, besides all that they would notwithstanding such Agreement Clandestinely obtain by giving higher Prices, for it would be the height of Folly to expect good Faith between two Rival Nations in

such a circumstance and their Conduct when on the Survey with Mr Bathoe ought to have warned you of this

42 We are convinced due Encouragement and Protection to the Weavers will be the only means of promoting the Manufactures

It was therefore a very judicious method to abolish the Duty of Mangin<sup>1</sup> but we are far from being of Opinion that Power any how

exerted except from exemption from Duties or Taxes can operate to that purpose, the abuse of the Instruments of Power being always Superior to any good derived from them. So totally do we differ from you, that instead of monopolizing the whole, we are of Opinion that the recalling all The Native Gomastahs who abuse their Power where ever they go and often employ our Money and Influence to purchase for Foreigners and reviving the providing the Investment by Contracts with Merchants as was formerly practised, would best contribute to the encreasing the Quantities Merchant and Manufacturer is a natural union, but a Manufacturer dreads the hand of Power, which always handles him too roughly—We do not mean this as an Order for reviving Dadney Merchants because we see the good it might produce by exempting the Weaver from oppression, but not the evil

43 The care and relief of the Manufacturer is assuredly the only mode of encreasing the number of Weavers, altho' one Years oppression may occasion them to lay aside their Looms and take to Cultivation or other means of Subsisting themselves, yet the restoring them will be the work of many Years for having once parted with their Looms and Implements, it may be Years before they have Money enough, to supply themselves with new ones—Until a long course of good Government has restored the Manufactorys, you must continue to rub on with your Disputes with the other Companies as well as you can

44 In the course of Mr Bathoes Letters we are struck with the many Frauds and Abuses in the Conduct of Gomastahs, Banians and others employed in the Provision of our

Genl Lre from Investment, we are persuaded the whole Business requires a thorough reform, and we trust the Abilities of our present Export Warehouse Keeper Mr Cartier will accomplish it

45 Mr Bathoe's report of the Burdwan Aurung has drawn our very favorable Notice and we recommend it to you to give him all the encouragement that the Rules of our Service will admit of in the Important Branch of our Investment—We hope the visitation of the Aurungs was continued, and that you will have

pursued the same method throughout the whole Province, you will then come to a Knowledge of all the Assortments of Goods that are made, and must send us some of each, particularly of those made for the King, the Nabob and the Durbar, and you will be better judges where it will be proper to relax from the present Musters and Prices than you can be from the representation of Gomastahs who are Seldom worthy of so much Confidence. At the same time that we recommend this we mean it to be practised with caution, We esteem the present great demand to be of no longer duration than while the Foreigners are supplied with private Property, when that ceases we apprehend you will find it very difficult to recede from the Concessions you may now make.

46. It is very material to our Interest that as large a Sum be Invested as possible, and in order to effect this we direct the Weavers should by all proper means be encouraged.

47. We would not have such Goods as may in future prove inferior to Musters totally rejected, but retained for the use of The Company at their proportionable Value, these must not be blended with your choice Sortments, but packed separately and Invoiced to us as Ferrit Goods, still remembering to give every Encouragement and Advantage to those Manufacturers that will exert themselves most, and keep the Quality of their Goods the nearest to your Old Musters, and discourage every attempt in others who designedly debase their Manufactures, by retaining them on less advantageous Terms to the Weavers or Contractors.

48. We sent you last Year a List of those Articles that would answer our purpose tho' procured at the advanced prices therein specified; if you find it necessary to make a further encrease in the prices of those Articles, you have our Permission to do it in such degree as will enable you to procure the Quantities ordered.

49. The reasons you have given for not complying with our List of Investment for the Year 1766 received P Admiral Pocock are in general Satisfactory, and we shall make some particular Remarks thereon when we transmit you the list of Investment for this Year.

50. The Cargo of the Admiral Pocock is much to our Satisfaction, having therein many fine Goods It is always a great pleasure to us when you give so favorable an opportunity as this to commend your Conduct, and we shall rest assured you will not fail to exert yourselves in procuring as many more Fine Goods as you possibly can in order to maintain our present good Opinion of your Conduct.

51. The Provision of Salt Petre at your Presidency for all the Ships sent out this Year is to be the same as ordered in our Letter

of the 20th November last Para. 36 unless a further Quantity shall be absolutely required and that to be laden at half Freight.

52. His Excellency John Murray Esqr. His Britannick Majestys Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte has advised us that in consequence of a representation made to him by Governor Verelst of the Impediments and disadvantages which have lately attended the Trade from the Ports of Mocha, Judda and Bussorah, he had presented a Memorial to the Porte and was pursuing further measures in redress thereof. We have in reply expressed our sense of his Excellencys Services on this Occasion hoping they will be attended with the desired Success. But we must acquaint you that we are greatly Surprized to find your Advices totally silent on this Affair and much more so, That an Application should be made to one of His Majesty's Ministers thereon without your apprizing us thereof. We therefore direct that you give us a particular Account of the Causes of the said representation and that in future you keep us fully informed of the Situation of your Private Trade with all other parts, and if at any time an Application should be requisite to His Majestys Ministers thereon, it will then proceed in the regular Channel through us.—Copies of his Excellencys Letter and our Answer go enclosed herewith.

53. The important consideration of opening a Trade in the Eastern Polynesia by means of an Establishment to be formed on the Island of Balambangan<sup>2</sup> situated off the No. Et. of Borneo, has determined us to send positive directions by Express overland to the Presidency of Bombay immediately to send one of their Cruizers to take Possession thereof, Copy of that Letter is enclosed, that you may be apprized of and promote The Expedition as far as shall lay in your Power until we shall be enabled to give more particular Directions on this material Object.

54. We are concerned to see so much of your Records taken up with your Disputes with the Foreign Nations most of them Frivolous or Totally groundless and are merely indications of their Envy at the Growth of a Power they cannot Check. We wrote you very fully in what manner to proceed with them last year, they must be kept within their proper Limits by the Ministers, without your interfering, except where the dispute lays between the Actual Agents of the respective Companies.

55. In our Letter of the 20th November 1767 Pa. 51. you were particularly enjoined to Transmit us as full and exact Accounts as possible of the Arrival and Departure of all Foreign European Shipping together with the particulars of their Imports and Exports,

and as we see an Absolute Necessity for your Compliance with those our Directions, You are hereby most positively ordered not to fail therein.

56. The Presidency of Fort St. George having sent to Pondicherry in September and October 1767 two Letters to be forwarded to us by French Ships, neither of them has been received; As they have not yet reached us, we suppose the French have retarded them to gain a knowledge of their Contents, but as it appears they were wrote in Cypher, we hope they have been disappointed therein. This is not the first time we have had reason to complain of the like treatment. You are therefore to be particularly careful not to write any thing by such precarious Conveyances, the discovery of which may be detrimental to the Company And as the French will undoubtedly leave no Arts unpractised to open a way for regaining their former Influence in India, Our frequent orders for using the utmost Vigilance to disconcert their intrigues with the Country Powers and to render ineffectual their design for involving us with them must be constantly attended to, further we would have you spare no pains to gain a Perfect Knowledge of the Strength at their Islands and Settlements in India that you may at all Times be sufficiently guarded against any sudden Attack they may meditate, observing that when their Conduct or Force shall give you good Cause to suspect their Intentions, the earliest Notice thereof must be communicated to us, and, if the Exigence of the case should make it necessary, you must not only advise us of the same Overland but also by an Express Vessel to be dispatched for that purpose.

57. In our Letter of the 16th March last Para. 58 to 60 we gave you our Sentiments on the Subject of the Gold Currency which were in general that the Principles on which you had raised the value of the Gold admitted conclusion diametrically opposite to those you laid down, that we thought it would not Answer the end proposed, and feared there was too much ground for the Report that private Views had influenced this measure, the Event having been such as we expected, confirms that Suspicion. We shall now enter more at large into the Subject.—The bringing forth hidden hoards of Gold into Circulation in order to add to the Current Specie was set forth as your principal Inducement; but you entered into no explanation how the raising the value of the Gold was to operate to that Effect; nor can we discover how you could expect that effect; for admitting the fact, that there were hoards of Gold no Man would part with his Gold but for a consideration, and that consideration could be only Silver, therefore the Effect was that there was so much Silver hoarded up instead of the Gold, not only the hoards were changed from Gold to Silver, but all the Neigh-

houring Provinces would undoubtedly pour in their Gold for your Silver, yet upon so mistaken a principle as this you raise the value of Gold 8 P Cent by one single Edict, a bolder measure in one the most delicate parts of Legislation than ever was practised in any Government in the World, the Effect was so obvious, That notwithstanding the general Approbation we testified of the Conduct of those who had the Administration of our Affairs at your Presidency we cannot suppose in this particular they erred in Judgement only, but must conclude that those who took the lead in this extraordinary measure had secretly bought up large Quantities of Gold before the rise took place, which should it be proved will draw upon the Authors of it our severest Resentment

58 You have in your several Letters expressed in very strong Terms your Apprehensions of a Scarcity of Silver from the large Exportation to China and the Sum remitted to the King, and from the Ceasing of that Importation which used to be made by the European Nations These are in general Speculative apprehensions, but you quote only one Fact in support of an Actual Scarcity, which is, that it is difficult to get Change even for a hundred Gold Mohurs and this is Confirmed by the Petition of the Shroffs on Consultation 1st February 1768 which only proves that by overrating the value of Gold you have counteracted your intentions of Establishing the Currency of it, and the Consequence is, that in Virtue of your own Order, you receive all Gold that is tendered, and find no one to take it from you again

59 Amid these speculative Terrors it is some relief to us to remark that the Revenues in every part of the Provinces continue to be paid in Silver and the Terror of the Scarcity seems wholly confined to the Presidency for no Complaint of this kind appears in any part of the Letters from the Subordinates or the Provinces Your General Letter of the 22nd February last Para 57 expresses how totally you have been disappointed in this favorite Measure of a Gold Currency, we expect to find you soon after reversed your Order and reduced it to the Value it bore in the other parts of the Country, but if you should have failed therein, We positively direct that immediately upon Receipt of this Letter you put it in Execution, for the longer it continues at its present Value the more it may tend to bring on that Scarcity of Silver it was intended to prevent, by encouraging the Foreign Nations to import Gold instead of Silver, which being Current only to our Treasury will all rest there, and the greater the Accumulation the greater will be

the loss we shall have to Sustain when you lower the Price, and which in strict Justice ought to fall on those who Suggested the Measure.—But for this mistaken Step of overrating the Value of Gold, most probably by the tranquil State the Bengal Provinces have been in, the Value of Gold would have fallen so low in the Market that we might have bought it on terms to have yielded a Profit on sending to the Coast and China, instead of the heavy losses now Sustained.—After having expressed ourselves so fully on the Gold Currency, we shall proceed to examine the representation you make to us, of the fatal Consequences of the Exportation of so much Silver.

60. The Statement you make us of the Balance of Trade being in favor of Bengal only from the Gulphs and that for Five or Six Lacks P Annum while the Exportation to China and to the King is 50 Lacks, besides the large Sums sent to the Coast, Seems at first Sight to Threaten the Consequences you apprehend; but without entering into so precarious a Speculation as what may be the Balance of Trade between a Country possessing (*sic*) the necessaries of life so Cheap and such variety of Manufactures, and the Countries with which it trades, we conjecture that while the Company issue from their Treasury near 60 Lacks for their Investment, One hundred and Twenty for their Expences, and near 50 for the Nabob and Ministers, while other European Nations issue forth probably from 70 to 80 Lacks for their Investments and the Private Traders as large a Sum, so long we think there cannot cease to flow Specie sufficient for the Payment of the Revenues and for all the purposes of Commerce; all beyond that is superfluous, and whether locked up there or any where else is of no avail to the Actual Wealth or Prosperity of a Nation.—Your Arguments are partially founded on the State of the Country for the few last Years when Foreigners have ceased to Import Bullion, because the amazing Accumulation of Private Property obtained by the great Sums extorted by our Servants from the Nabob and his Ministers and the vast Fortunes raised by the English taking to themselves the whole Trade of the Country formed at once a vast Mass of Money, which supplied the other European Companies and prevented their exporting Bullion from Europe. From what we hear of the large Sums for which Foreign Companies have drawn on Europe we flatter ourselves that Source must soon fail them, and if they still push for large Investments, They must send Bullion to India.—If not we shall then be able to extend our Investment, to take in that proportion of the Manufactures which they now enjoy, and if you can extend your Investment to the whole of the Surplus of the Revenue there will then be no occasion to export Silver to China; But if on the Contrary the other European Nations are our Rivals at Market and import Bullion,



That Bullion will enable the Country to bear an Exportation to China

61 We cannot but remark that at the time you wrote us last year, and again this Year relative to the small Importation of Silver, Your Account Coinage shews a far greater Amount of Foreign Money Coined than you admit to be the Balance in favor of Bengal—We last Year ordered you to obtain a return of the Coinage of all the Mints in the Three Provinces, That we apprehend will be the best Criterion of the Balance of Trade between Bengal and other parts of the World, you are therefore to be careful that it be faithfully taken and transmitted to us Annually

62 Notwithstanding we have given very particular Directions for sending home Annually Samples of the different Coinages of of your Mint to be assayed here, that we might see they were Kept up to their Standard in Weight and Fineness, and give the necessary Observations for establishing the Credit of your Mint you have paid little or no attention there

to The last year you did not send any, and those few We have received this Season, you very injudiciously ordered the Sub Treasurer to send to the Mint Master to be Assayed, and being cut for that purpose we can form no Judgement of their Weight—That we may not be again deprived of the needful Information on so essential a Subject, We now positively direct you to make it a standing Rule to go at Two or Three different unfixed times in every Year to your Mint and take indiscriminately from the different Species of your new Coinage 10 of each, which are to be weighed and sealed up in your Presence with the Presidents Seal and sent to us by the Three First Ships of the Season—We are very much displeased at your repeated Instances of Inattention and Disobedience in this point, and unless you pay the strictest Obedience to the Orders we have now given we shall shew stronger Marks of our Resentment

63 We are Confirmed in the Reflections we have made on the Measures you have taken for the Establishing the Gold Currency, on reading your Proceedings relative to the Diversity of Rupees and the Abuses Committed in the Batta or Exchange between the Several Species of them

64 Mahmud Reza Cawn's Letter on the Subject betrays the Awkwardness [*sic*] of a Man who is maintaining an Argument against the Conviction of his own Mind, for instead of coming fairly to the Question, Whether the distinction between Siccas and Sonnauts' shall be Abolished? Evades that and proposes only to order the Siccis of the several Mints to be

General Letter to  
3 Mar 1758 Pa 127.  
24 Decr 1765 Pa  
60

Consa 24 Decr  
1767

of the same Standard: and tells you if you Abolish Batta, the People who Subsist by it, will take to Clipping and Adulterating the Coin.

65. Mr. Campbell indeed says the abolishing the yearly fall will be either impracticable or productive of a contrary Effect and

Concl. 24 Decr. gives for reason that the Shroffs will purchase 1767.

up the new Siccas and so create an Artificial Scarcity, Words that convey no clear Idea.—For with what are Siccas to be purchased when the difference between Sonnauts and Siccas is abolished? What have they then to bring to Market in Exchange for Siccas? Mr. Campbell also Countenances the Ministers opinions that the Shroffs will take to false Coining and Adulterating the Coins: but surely those who are neither restrained by fear nor Principle will be guilty of that now as much as they may then.—The next Argument is that the Company will lose 100000 Rs. P. Annum, they now gain by Recoinage, besides the Expence of the Mint, an Argument [*sic*] of no weight in the Consideration of an Object so important to the Ease of the Land-holder and consequently to the Revenues, by relieving them from the heavy Tax they now pay to the Shroffs under the various Articles of Batta.

66. The Objection arising from the Customs of two or three Places which prefers Arcots to Siccas is too partial to be brought as an Argument it may very possibly be owing to the unfixed Value of Siccas, and when once the difference between Siccas and Sonnauts is abolished they may by degrees be brought to receive them.

67. Mr. Campbell first makes a recoinage necessary, and then tells you Recoinage is impracticable, but we do not see how a general Recoinage is any way connected with the Question, which is, merely whether a Sicca of one, Two or Three Years Coinage shall or shall not bear the same Value and whether you shall Abolish the present distinction, Calculated for no Purpose in the World but to enrich a few Bankers at the Expence of the rest of the Subjects..

68. When we consider the Objections brought against the abolishing the Batta, we think it a reflection on the Abilities of all your Board to have yielded to such weak Arguments, and the best Apology it can admit of is that you have given up your Judgement in this intricate Business to Mr. Campbell without further investigation.—The only objection that Occurs to us is what you have never touched upon, and that is how to get the better of that Combination there will certainly be among the Bankers, but we suppose if the Ministry will Zealously adopt it, an Absolute Government can never be defeated in a measure so calculated for the Public Good and as you have by Perseverance broke that Combination there was against the Currency of the Calcutta Siccas, so we presume you must finally

prevail, in this in which no doubt but you will be Supported by all the Foreign Nations —The Abolition of the Batta on Sonnaunts must therefore be carried into Execution

69 We have frequently Expressed our displeasure at the growing Expence of purchasing Houses we nevertheless observe a new and expensive Instance of it in Consultation 5th November 1767, in the purchase of a house for Offices to the Second's House, it carries with it the Appearance of your having no intention of ever in habiting the New Fort if this arises from Apprehensions of the unwholesomeness of the Situation and that you think it will continue so and is irremediable you should explain it to us and we may be induced to your representations, but in that case the New Fort must be considered merely as a Citadel and there must be a Total Stop to all the Interior Buildings except Barracks, Magazines and places for Military Service

70 It is with surprize we observe you have given Permission to the Chief and Council at Patna to rebuilt that Factory without having first Ordered them to send down a Plan and Estimate of the Expence for your Approbation agreeably to our repeated Orders and the general Practise on similar Occasions, it carries the appearance of a partiality we can by no means Approve, and it is very extraordinary and highly displeasing to us that you should have engaged in so important a business with so little deliberation as to leave us at a Loss to know whether you mean to build a House or a Fortification, In all New Buildings of this Nature our Present Situation requires an Eye to Defence, and the Engineer should have been Consulted on it

71 If this Building is not likely to Suffer by delaying to Finish it, we would have a Total stop put to it till our further Orders and to enable us to form a proper Judgement, We desire to have Colonel Campbells our Engineers (*sic*) Opinion on the Plan and an Estimate of the Expence attending it in the mean time the Business must be Conducted in the Old Factory

72 We are much alarmed at the great Expence so far exceeding all your Estimates in the Barracks at Burrampore We direct that a Committee be appointed to examine how the Building has varied from the Plan to have Occasioned the great Difference in the Expence, and signify our Displeasure to the Surveyor who has led you into so great an Error

73 We very much apprehend there will appear the same excess beyond the Estimate in the Barracks at Donapore, if it should be

so, you must make the same Scrutiny into that as into those of Burrampore and report the whole minutely in your Answer to this.

74. The encreasing Expence of Buildings becomes very alarming to us and we direct that in future you engage in no New ones without our Express Permission except when necessary for immediate Defence.

75. Mr. Russells report of the Burdwan Province has laid the Subject so fully open to our View, that we are perfectly satisfied with the Administration of that Province, in which there seems

nothing capable of further Improvement, but  
 Cons. 28 Sept. an Attention to the Chackeran<sup>4</sup> Lands and the  
 1767. letting the Lands out in Long Leases; which will have a Happy effect not only by the Improvement of the Lands, but by attaching the Landholders more strongly to our Interest.

The Remonstrance of the Rajah on the  
 Vide Russel's Con- Necessity of supporting his Dignity is so justly  
 versation. founded, that we recommend it to you to give him all the Indulgences which can any way alleviate the loss of real Power and Dignity.

76. With respect to the Calcutta Lands we observe you now Collect them yourselves and they continue encreasing: If the Collecting them by Servants should prove the most beneficial, Continue it, and do not so frequently change your System, by which the People are harrassed and your Government exposed to ridicule.

77. From the extension of the Company's Concerns in India and in Consequence the Great increase of Business at our several Presidencies, We have lately appointed some Young Gentlemen as Writers.—Those for your Settlement are named as follow and whose Rank is to be in the Order here described vizt.

William Boughton/Richard Phipps/Frederick Farrer/Richard Sumner/John Shore/Lewis Crusius Laplant/Tilman Henckell/Thomas Kirkman/Thomas Horsfall/John Champain/John Bristow/Matthew Day/Charles Groeme/Peter Speke/George DuCane [gone home]\*/Willoughby Legh/George Herbert/[.....] Hewitt/William Bride/William Cowper/Henry Richardson/Thomas Rooke [dead]\*/Matthew Gunning/William Augustus Brooke/Samuel Charters/Joseph Lloyd Harris/Peter Moore/Thomas Graham/George Hatch/Charles Hipposly Cox [gone home]\*/Charles Steynsham Collinson/Edward Smith/William Wroughton/Richard Gosling Junr. [gone home].\*

78. Of the said Writers Messrs. William Bride and William Wroughton are now in India upon the receipt hereof you are

to give them notice of their Appointments and require them to repair immediately to their Stations accordingly, And they are to Execute the Covenants sent herewith before proper Witnesses, which are then to be returned to us by the first Opportunity.

79. We have appointed the Revd. Mr. John Pennington [dead]\* to be one of our Chaplains on the Bengal Establishment who will proceed to you on the Ship Royal Charlotte. He is to be allowed £230 P Annum for Salary and £162 P Annum for Diet and all other Allowances, which is the same as appears by the last Accounts to have been paid to the Revd. Mr. Parry your present Chaplain, and this is to be the established Allowance to the Chaplains at your Presidency and not encreased on any pretence whatever without our Orders.

80. Mr. Bolts has been a very unprofitable and unworthy Servant to the Company, his Conduct has been distinguished by a Tenacious adherence to those pernicious Principles relative to the Rights to the Inland Trade, in which he appears to have been

Genl. Letter from  
to Decr. 1767. Pa. 75  
to 78.

conspicuously oppressive,—by repeated Instances of disobedience to the Orders of his Superiors Abroad—and above all by the basest Ingratitude to the Company under whom he had acquired an Ample Fortune, in exposing their Secrets to Mr. Gentil<sup>s</sup> at Sujah Dowlah's Court and to his Agents at other Indostan Courts, which we look upon in the light of a high Crime and Misdemeanor. Under these Circumstances you were Warranted in pursuing the most speedy and effectual Measures for freeing the Country of so dangerous a Member of Society, and we therefore approve your obliging him to repair to Europe by the first opportunity which if not already done must be carried into Execution by the first Ship.

81. It appears by Advices received from Madras that Mr. Carter our late Governor of Bencoolen was, contrary to our express Prohibition, at that Presidency in October 1767. Should he be in Bengal on the receipt hereof you are positively Ordered to send him home by the next Conveyance.

82. We have repeatedly directed you to require Mr. Henry Plowman to proceed to Europe as soon as he should have adjusted the Concerns with which he was left in Charge by Mr. Vansittart our late Governor and it appears he has from time to time evaded his Compliance with those orders under pretence he had not finished that Business.—But as we are of Opinion he will upon receipt hereof have had sufficient time to wind up Mr. Vansittarts Concerns.—We positively direct that he proceeds to Europe on one of the Ships to be dispatched from your Presidency in the Season of 1769.

\*Comments made by the receivers of the Letter.

83. We informed you last Season with our Reason for not then allowing any Free Merchants to go out and that still continuing none will be permitted this.

84. Such Persons as we shall permit to proceed as Surgeons, or those to provide for themselves in the Seafaring way will be noticed to you in the usual manner by the Lists thereof in the several Packets.

85. We have permitted Captain Edward Roch whose Family resides in Bengal to proceed to the care of his Private Concerns there.

86. Mr. Tilly Kettle<sup>6</sup> has also obtained our License to proceed to Bengal to exercise his Profession of a Portrait Painter on Condition that he does not act in any other Capacity, or engage in any kind of Commerce whatever, which you are to see is punctually complied with, and in failure thereof he is to be sent to Europe.

87. Mr. Tyso Saul Hancock who had our Permission last Season to proceed to and remain in India three Years for settling his Private Affairs, having been prevented by Illness from going last year, he now takes Passage on the Lioness.

88. Having in general expressed our Approbation of your Conduct it is with reluctance we give Ear to any private information to your disadvantage; but the Fact being of so alarming, so pernicious a nature, we think it necessary to call upon you to examine into the Truth of it.—It is represented to us that several of our servants high in Station having bought up a large Quantity of Cotton on Speculation, they have prevailed on the Administration of Muxadavad, Houghley or Calcutta to levy a duty of 35 P Cent on all Cotton to be imported; and further that Mahmud Reza Cawn is made an Agent for the disposal of this Cotton; such a measure would be so injurious to our Government, so oppressive and so derogatory to the Dignity of our Servants and of Mahmud Reza Cawn, that if true, they will merit our Severest Censure. We therefore enjoin Our President who (having such extraordinary Appointments in Consideration of his being excluded from Trade) we consider as the proper Person to Check all Abuses Committed therein, to make a rigid Scrutiny what Foundation there is for this Charge, and to report to us accordingly.

89. It is always very agreeable to us to receive Testimonials of the Merits of our Servants, especially when they distinguish themselves in the management of those important branches the Revenues and Investment. You are therefore to assure Mr. Wilkins that his Services in encreasing the Investment at Luckypore has made a very favorable

Genl. Lrc' from  
14th Mar. 1768 Pa. 12.

impression upon us We have in a preceding Paragraph commended Mr Bathoe for his Judicious Survey of the Aurungs and Messrs Charleton Graham and Vansittart are likewise to be informed that we have a very favorable opinion of their Abilities and Diligence in Investigating and Encreasing the Revenues of the Chittagong Burdwan and Midnapore Provinces—We are also pleased to observe Mr Holmes the Assistant to the Collector General has recommended himself to our Notice, and we would have such of our Servants as distinguish themselves in this Important Branch Employed therein whenever the Resident at the Durbar requires the Assistance of able hands to investigate any Abuses that may be Committed in any particular Province

90 We take Notice in the Register of Dustucks of the Names of many who are not Company's Servants, this requires an explanation for we do not mean to vest in our Servants abroad a Power to confer such Privileges on any Person whatever not entitled thereto by being a Covenanted Servant We further observe in the Import Dustucks many Articles that are not for Exportation such as Bamboos, Tobacco &c and consequently are an Encroachment on the right of the Natives and a deviation from the Spirit of our Orders We expect our President to keep a watchful Eye to prevent those encroachments being determined to preserve the Line we have drawn to distinguish the Trade of the Natives from that of our Servants

91 As we have not thought it necessary to appoint any Commissioned Officers this Season for the Service of our Military Establishments at Fort William, Fort St George or Bombay, none will proceed, except such as were chosen last year, and whose Private Affairs would not then permit of their Embarking—Those for your Presidency will appear by the Lists enclosed in the several Ships Packets on which they take their Passages

92 But that you may not be in want of proper Persons to fill up the Vacancies which may happen amongst the Military Officers under your Presidency we intend to send 95 Cadets to Bengal this Season, who are to be promoted to Commissions according to the Order in which they are named in the Lists we shall send you, and after those whom we Appointed last Season are provided for

93 And in Order that our Several Military Establishments appointed last Season may be kept compleat, for the Security of our extensive Possessions in India we have Resolved to use our utmost endeavors to send by the Ships of this Season about 2900 Recruits, to be divided in the following Proportions Vizt

1300 to Fort St. George  
 900 to Fort William  
 700 to Bombay.

But you are to observe notwithstanding the above Disposition that if you shall otherwise have Recruits more than Sufficient to compleat your Establishment and Men shall be wanting either at Fort St. George or Bombay to make up their Compliment, you are not to fail to send as many of the abovementioned 900 Recruits designed for you to those respective Presidencies as shall be necessary for fully compleating their several Establishments.—And in case the Fort St. George Presidency should from the Situation of Affairs find it necessary to Land any part of the Recruits intended for you, we have given them Liberty of so doing, on condition that they replace them as soon as their Circumstances will admit of it. This Latitude is allowed on the established Principle so frequently inculcated that the general Preservation of our Possessions is to be considered as a common Cause, and must be the Rule from which the respective Presidencies are never to depart. Directions Similar to these are given to our Presidents and Councils of Fort St. George and Bombay.—The Names and Descriptions of the Recruits for your Presidency will as usual be seen by the Lists Transmitted by the Ships whereon they take Passage.

94. It being represented to us that the following Persons who went out last Season as Recruits are on account of their Families and Education worthy of Notice and fit to be advanced to Superior Stations in our Military Service, vizt. James Bucknall who went to Bengal P Queen, Robert Moland to Fort St. George P Seahorse, Samuel Dyer to Bengal P Salisbury You are therefore provided they have behaved to Satisfaction to place them in the order they are above named at the foot of the List of Cadets sent to Bengal last Season, and next after John Luttrell. And we have ordered the President and Council of Fort St. George to send Mr. Moland to you accordingly.

95. We last year recommended to you to have as many European Officers to the Brigade Sepoys as the State of the Service would admit. On a Conference we have had with Lord Clive he represented this as very essential to the establishing Discipline and Subordination among them, and thinks an European Commissioned Officer to each Company will be necessary, and that no Officer should rise to the Command of a Battalion until he has made himself sufficiently Master of the Language to acquit himself in his Duty without the Assistance of an Interpreter, you will therefore carry this into Execution accordingly.

Lre' to 16th March  
 1768 Para 128.



96 Having good reason to be satisfied with Colonel Smith's Conduct and being assured that he had great Merit in Suppressing the Mutiny in 1766 and in introducing a good Discipline in the Troops, and in reforming many Abuses that have been Committed in the Army Expences, and esteeming it also necessary that the Commander in Chief on your Establishment should hold a Rank superior to every other Officer therein We have thought proper to give him the Rank of Brigadier General and his Commission as such goes a Number in the Packet He is not however to receive any Additional Pay in consideration of this Rank, his Pay and Allowances having been settled in our Letter of the 20th Novr 1767 which are to be the fixed Allowances for the Commander in Chief of our Forces at your Presidency until you receive our further Orders

97 Although we have given Colonel Smith a Constant Seat in the Committee yet it is in the Military Branch principally that we look for an exertion of his Abilities, and expect that he will apply the Weight and Influence his Seat at the Board gives him to the perfecting the Discipline of the Troops and reforming all Abuses Committed in the Army Expences, We are persuaded a thorough Attention to them will find him full employment, and as it is in the Military Department that we shall deem him particularly accountable, so we wish him to confine himself as much to that as his Sense of the Duty he owes to the Company will permit

98 We have received but one General Return of the Troops on your Establishment this Year, and that by the last Ship enclosed in a Letter from the President This is a very great Omission, and in a very essential point, as we require the Returns early in the Season to regulate the Number of Recruits according to your necessities Neither do we approve the deviation from the ordinary Course of Business in having it transmitted to us by the President, as it should properly make a part of your General Packet Notwithstanding we have repeatedly ordered you to send us annually Lists of the Military and Artillery Officers and Engineers on your Establishment, you have entirely omitted it this Season We expect a more punctual obedience to those orders in future

99 We last Year recommended a reduction of the Brigade Sepoys, which we now repeat being convinced 4000 Sepoys to each Brigade is full sufficient in time of Peace, and as much as the Revenues will admit of In case of a War the Provincial Sepoys will serve for the Defence of the Provinces that are the least exposed to an Enemy

100 We gave our Approbation to the levying of Twelve

Battalions of Seapoys for the Collections that the Discipline of the Brigade Seapoys might not be endangered by their being employed in any unsoldierlike Service; We hope you have strictly adhered to your own Plan, and to our intentions therein, for we should be much alarmed for the Discipline and Subordination of the Army if this Rule is broke in upon, because the Pergannah Seapoys being immediately under the Civil Administration and the Brigade Seapoys under the Orders of the Commander in Chief, if the last are put upon the Collection Duties there follows an immediate Confusion in the Command; a fruitful source of Jealousy and Dissention between the Civil and Military; and it endangers the Discipline and Subordination of the Army.

101. As the Security of our Valuable Possessions depends so much on the Keeping up a good Discipline and a Martial Spirits in the Troops, We expect in future whenever the State of the Country will permit, that the Commander in Chief makes one General Review of all the Brigade Troops both Natives and Europeans, and a Report of the Condition of each Battalion with respect to Number, Situation, Arms, Accoutrements and Discipline, which is to be Signed by him and delivered to the Governor, who is to lay it before the Council to be transmitted to us.

102. As we have taken great precaution to establish the entire dependency of the Military on the Civil Power, we shall deem you and the Select Committee highly responsible for any abuse of that Power in the unequal distribution of Favor or Justice towards them; and we fear your Conduct is not altogether free from that imputation in the Command of the Detachment sent into the Decan.—The request made by the President and Council of Fort St. George to have Colonel Smith sent with the Command does that Officer great Honor, but it was right not to Appoint him to it, as his Presence was more immediately necessary in Bengal, but Colonel Barker's long Services, more particularly in that very Country where the Troops were to Act, pointed him out as the properest Officer to have Commanded that Expedition, and we cannot but consider the preference given to a Major, more especially as it was a Lieutenant Colonels Command, as a Mark of partiality to Major Smith and an injustice to his Superiors, more particularly to Sir Robert Barker.

103. We do expect from you and the Committee the most delicate Conduct in the distribution of Military Rewards. It is a branch of Power delegated entirely to you, and it would shake the Civil Power very much should you by any partiality or injustice

oblige us to revoke or annul any of your Actions, it therefore behoves you to be extremely circumspect in your Conduct therein

104 We have in our Letter to the Select Committee testified our disapprobation of the Altercations between them and Colonel Smith it is necessary for the reputation of your Administration that the Dignity of both should be preserved We commend your checking all Encroachments on the Civil Power, but it is also essential that the Commander in Chief should appear to be supported by you in the due Exercise of his Office, in this there is no medium he must either be supported or dismissed, and therefore without entering into the merits of the Question whether Colonel Smith did right or wrong in the orders he issued for subjecting the Seapoys to the Punishment of the Laws of England for Murder, it was certainly wrong to put so great an indignity on him as to direct him to revoke his order in the most public manner had that been Executed it would have been such a Stigma on his Character, as would have rendered him very improper for the Command of the Troops, and we must have been brought into the Situation of losing an Officer of whose Zeal and Abilities we entertain a favorable Opinion, to avoid the greater evil of leaving the Civil Power unsupported even in a wrong cause

105 We are very much displeased at your having revived the Double Batta on the Occasion of the Detachment sent into the Decan, the Consequences with respect to the Army at our Madras Presidency were so obvious that had you reflected at all they must have occurred to you It must for ever be abolished without exception to any particular case but when Troops March at so great a distance as greatly to enhance the price of necessary Stores and the Expence of carrying them, some mode must be found out of Supplying the Officers Cheaper, or an extraordinary Allowance for carrying their Baggage

106 The Letters from Colonels Smith and Barker entered on the Committees Proceedings of the 23 February and 2nd March 1768 mention Sujah Dowlah's having established a Foundry for Cannon We therefore recommend it to you to take Colonel Engineer Campbell's Opinion on the practicability of establishing a Foundry at Calcutta, and the Expence of Casting Cannon there compared to what they cost us sent from hence

107 We take notice of the great Desertion of the Seapoys of the first Brigade on their Marching from Mongheer to Calcutta to embark for the Coast, it points out a precaution to us which we would have you observe, that is, to make your Levies as much as possible in the Bahar or Orissa Province, that we may not be exposed

to Desertion or Treachery by having them levied in the Countries of any of the Neighbouring Powers with whom we may Chance to have War.

108. The Commanders of our Freightred Ships frequently applying to us for Payment of the Passage of Officers and Soldiers sent from Settlement to Settlement in India and to Europe, We particularly require you to pay all Expences of this kind before the Troops shall at any time embark from yours to other Presidencies, and to do the same for those who according to former Orders you have Permission to provide with a passage hither on the Shipping of each Passenger according to the express stipulation in Charter Party for that Purpose.

109. When we last year gave our Select Committee discretionary Power to send Gold or Silver to Europe it was on the Expectation of there being a very large Balance in our  
 Tre' to Select of there being a very large Balance in our  
 Comtee. 10th Janry Treasury; The great Expence of the War on  
 1768. the Coast of Choromandel, the unknown and unexpected Debt of Interest to the amount of 23 Lacks; together with the Sum that must be paid for the first Year of the Treaty that is likely to place with the Morattoes, have greatly altered the Grounds of those Expectations.

110. We observe the Balance of your Treasury, together with the Balances at the several Aurungs and Subordinates are very considerable, but after deducting the remaining Debt at Interest which was soon to be paid off, there will not be a greater Sum in Specie than what the Security of our Affairs will always require; And should the War have continued many Months longer on the Coast of Choromandel and on the Malabar Side; their Draughts upon you will probably be such as together with the Charges of your Settlement, your Investment and Remittance to China, may reduce your Treasury lower than it would be prudent to Permit. Nevertheless we cannot suffer ourselves to be drawn upon to an unlimited Amount, the State of the Company's Affairs here not yet admitting us to Answer large Draughts upon us from India, but should the Exigency of your Affairs require your receiving Money into your Treasury, we prefer the mode of borrowing at Interest to that of granting Bills upon us we therefore permit you to take up such Sums on Interest for one year certain as will Answer your various Demands, which are to be paid off at the expiration of that Period, or as soon after as the State of your Treasury will admit of.

111. You are therefore to confine your Drafts upon us by the Ships to be dispatched from your Presidency in the Season of 1769 to the same amount as we allowed last year vizt. £70000 which

is to be paid into our Treasury at the rate of 2s for the Current Rupee and the whole divided in equitable Proportions amongst our Servants Civil and Military agreeably to our former Directions We mean the said Sum of £70000 to be exclusive of Lord Clive's Jaghire for which Bills are to be granted if his Lordship's Agents apply for them

112 Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr having represented to us that he has had to the Amount of £5000 remaining several Years in Bengal from an inability to obtain Remittances for the same through our Cash, we direct that you grant Bills in his favor for the said Sum, whenever his Agents shall apply for them And you are likewise to observe that this Sum is not to make a part of your Drafts for the £70000 abovementioned

113 Having been applied to by Robert Nettleton Esqr President of the Corporation for the relief and support of Sick, Wounded and disabled Seamen in the Merchants Service to permit the Amount of £1500 or £2000 for a Subscription which is carrying on in Bengal in behalf of the said Charity to be paid into our Treasury there for Bills of Exchange on us, we have in order to promote this Charitable Institution agreed to allow you to draw for such Sum as shall be paid into your Treasury on that Account at the same rate for the Rupee as is allowed to our Covenanted Servants, not exceeding the amount abovementioned which is to be over and above the Sum stipulated to be drawn as before mentioned

114 Exclusive of the Sum above limited we do Likewise allow the Commanders and Officers of each of our Ships of this Season to pay into our Cash on the Terms aforesaid, at such Settlements whereto they are Consigned to the Amount of £5000, that is to say those Consigned to Coast and Bay may pay in at either or both of those Presidencies a Sum not exceeding £5000 for each Ship, and those ordered to Bombay are to be confined to the same Sum at that Presidency, unless our Service may require their Dispatch from any other, and then any part of their unpaid Quota may be received there And as the Commanders and Officers of none of our Ships are to be allowed more than £5000—on this Account in the whole Voyage, the several Presidencies must take the necessary care in that respect by duly advising each other of the Sums received from those Commanders and Officers—And in regard to those who call at Madras in their way to China they are to be restrained to the latter Place for paying in theirs—As to the proportions which the Officers are to bear with their Commanders in the said Sum they are to be settled according to the Rates mentioned in the

Printed Indulgence with respect to their Adventures outward. Such Commanders and Officers therefore as may apply to you on this occasion must have Certificates granted them in the usual manner and upon Oath as ordered in our Letter of the 21st November 1766.

115. On reconsidering our former directions relative to the Exchange for Bills that we should draw on our respective Presidencies for Money paid into our Treasury here

Pa. 99. by the Owners of our Freightied Ships for the said Ships Stocks Or by others who may have occasion to make Remittances to India, We have in order to encourage them to make such Payments determined to pass our Drafts accordingly at the following Rates.

	s.	d.	
On Bengal at . . . . .	2	0	P Current Rupee.
Fort St. George . . . . .	7	3	P Current Pagoda.
Bombay . . . . .	2	2	P Bombay Rupee.

The Bills drawn in favor of the Owners as aforesaid will be made payable at Five Days Sight and those in favor of other Persons at Thirty days Sight.

116. And that the Owners may be induced to give directions to the Commanders to take up the Sums they shall want for their Ships use at any of the said Presidencies the Advances that shall accordingly be made to them only are to be accounted for at the Rates following.

	s.	d.	
At Bengal at . . . . .	2	0	P Current Rupee.
Fort St. George . . . . .	7	3	P Current Pagoda.
Bombay . . . . .	2	2	P Bombay Rupee.

117. You are therefore to be Attentive that the above Directions so far as they shall concern you are complied with. And you are to call upon the several Commanders of our Freightied Ships who arrive at your Port to know if they are in want of any Money for their Ships use, and it must appear on your Consultations that you have so done.

118. The false Statement of the Debt at Interest of so great a Sum as 23,68,591.8.9 is one of the most extraordinary Errors

Genl. Lre' from that ever was committed in Accounts, and it 14th<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1767 Pa. is a matter of Astonishment to us how it can 55. have escaped so many different Accountants and Sub Accountants, more especially as our Governor and Council in 1764 claimed great merit in having brought our Books into great Order. It is in vain for us to express our Resentment on this occasion as the Conduct of our Affairs have fallen into such variety of

hands since this Error was first committed, but we hope you will be careful that no such Errors ever happen again, if they do the Persons who appear Guilty will draw upon themselves our utmost Resentment

119 Notwithstanding we gave directions for your making a particular Enquiry into the Demand of Bolackydass<sup>r</sup> we have  
 Genl Lre to—20th received no further information thereon and  
 Novr 1766 Para 84 can trace no other Steps taken in the Affair  
 Cons 13 July 1767 than your Resolution to make such an Enquiry  
 —Such extraordinary remissness in an Affair of this consequence cannot fail to be very displeasing to us, more especially as it prevents our giving a satisfactory Answer to his Attorney Mr Miguel Van Colster who is come to England to Solicit the Payment of the Money We therefore positively repeat our Orders for making the most circumstantial Examination into this Affair and reporting the result thereof to us by the earliest opportunity, Copy of Mr Van Colster's Memorial to us goes in this Ships Packet together with his Drafts on Bolackydass for £100,—which we have advanced Mr Van Colster for his Subsistence in England

120 It is with Surprize we find by your General Books ending April 1767 that no more than Rs 200000 had been received to that time on the Company's Share of the Profit on Salt and Beetlenut—Upon examining your Treasury Accounts we observe that in October 1767 Rs 250000 and in February 1768 Rs 2,20000 had been further paid on that Account As the whole of these Sums is far short of the amount we expected from one Years Duty on that Trade, we cannot but suppose large Balances must be left in the hands of the Society which by no means ought to have been done, for our full Information therefore you must not fail to send us by the first Ships Copies of the Accounts of the Society of Trade in Salt, Beetlenut and Tobacco in order that we may see if the Company has received their full Proportions of the Advantage arising from that Trade And if from the Nature of those Accounts we should not be enabled to judge how long the respective Duties had been delayed we trust you will supply us with what may be further necessary for our Information

121 The Arrears due to the Government at the time the Company became possessed of the Dewannee, being Chargeable with  
 6th July 1767 the Debts the Nabob was then engaged in, It is highly necessary we should know the State of those Arrears and the Demands thereon This was so obvious that we must complain of your not having given us already a particular Account thereof But as we perceive by your Select Committee's Proceedings that a distinct Fund was to be formed of such

old Balances as might be Collected, for discharging those Debts of the Nabob in which the Company's Honor may any way be engaged. And as the Amount of the recoverable Balances and the Debts with which they are chargeable must by this time be ascertained, we expect and require you to transmit to us by the first conveyance a Separate State of the Receipts and Payments or what is to be received or paid on Account of that Fund.

122. Your Proceedings in regard to the Navy Donation mentioned in your Letter of the 14th September 1767 were not agreeable [*sic*] to our Orders and Intentions. As you ought to have paid them what had been received on Account of the Old Balances at the time of their Application. In Order that the Resolution of the General Court may be put into Execution as speedily as possible, you are hereby directed to Pay the Agents for the Navy Donation as soon after the receipt hereof as your Treasury will admit, such part of those Balances as shall then be in your hands.—And as you will by that time be pretty well able to judge what further Sums are recoverable on that Account, you must use all possible expedition in Collecting the same, which are in like manner to be paid to the Navy Agents.—And when it shall appear to you that the total Amount recoverable from those Balances will not be sufficient for the Discharge of the Donation, You are then to pay the Remainder out of the Company's Dewannee Revenues at such reasonable times as shall be most Convenient to their Affairs.

123. In the Packets you may send us by future Ships, your Secretary must be careful that the General and Select Letters with the Papers enclosed therewith are put into a Compact Box proper for an easy and speedy Conveyance, and so marked on the Covers that the Commanders may distinguish them from the other Packets containing Books or Private Letters with directions to forward them to us by the first opportunity after their Arrivals.—We have found great Inconvenience this Season by the Captains keeping on board the Packets which contained such Advices, some time after the Ships Arrival, whilst those of least importance were sent to us immediately, owing intirely to their not being distinguished as abovementioned.

124. Ramnaut having desired leave of the Select Committee to proceed against Nobkissen by the Laws of England, it ought not to have been denied. If the Charge was false it could only fall on the Head of the Accuser, nor is there [*in?*] any of the Powers vested in the Committee any Authority to take Cognizance of such a Complaint. You must not therefore presume ever to Act as a Seperate Judicature. This proceeding is aggravated by its being in the case of one of your immediate Servants and we very much fear that if such a partiality is shewn to any Native he will abuse that



favor and may commit great Oppressions on the Natives who may be awed from complaining against a Man so highly Countenanced ,

### *Supplement*

125 In addition to the Thirty one Ships taken up for the Company's Service this Season as mentioned in the 7th Paragraph, We have in order to assist the pressing Occasion of our Bombay Presidency for Seamen thro the loss of Men [ ] the Defiance Cruizer and with a view of Transporting 100 of the Military Recruits intended for that Settlement entertained the Ship Marquis of Rockingham of 400 Tons Burthen to be Commanded by Captain Alexander Hamilton, for the run to Bombay with Liberty that the Owners may dispose of her when discharged the Company's Service under the usual Restrictions But that the Company's Marine at Bombay may be benefitted as abovementioned the Officers and Seamen belonging to this Ship will be under an obligation to enter upon that Establishment when the Ship shall be discharged the Company's Service And as for Captain Hamilton he is at Liberty either to remain in India under our Protection or to return to England as may best suit his private Affairs

126 From your representations of the great utility which would attend constructing a Dock at your Settlement for the use of Public and Private Shipping We are induced to Consent to your making one, expecting you will (according to your Promise) see it completed with the utmost care and Economy and oblige the Private Ships and Vessels who make use of it to pay a reasonable a Charge for the same, agreeably to the Practise at Bombay, which we hope will in a few Years reimburse the Expence of it

Genl Lre from  
10th Decr 1767 Pa  
19 Cons Augst 17th  
Novr 16 23d

127 Three Boxes having been shipt on board the Admiral Watson without our Licence Vizt One Box containing Jewelry and two others containing Gold and Silver Lace, Buttons Thread and other Articles of that kind, the same were seized by the Company's Officers at Plymouth and sent up to our Treasury here As it appeared in the course of our Enquiry into this Affair that Captain Griffin knew of the Boxes being on board and had not given us the least intimation thereof, you are therefore to make the strictest examination into his Conduct in regard to this very gross neglect of Duty and Reprimand him severely in our Name for the same

128 Having lately met with a valuable Work Entitled Thesaurus Linguarum Orientalium by Mininski we send it you by this Ship, and hope it will be of good Assistance to such of our

Servants as have or shall apply themselves to the Study of the Oriental Languages, the Persic in particular, agreeable to our former Recommendations and you are to cause it to be carefully preserved, being a very scarce Book.

129. As we cannot give you more peremptory Orders than we did in March last for sending to England such Persons as may either  
General Letter 10  
March 1768 Para. 176. designedly or otherwise be left in India from our Europe Shipping or those of any other Nation it is therefore unnecessary to say more at present than to acquaint you we require the most strict regard to be paid to our said Orders.

130. The President and Council of Fort St. George are directed to forward the Lioness to you with all possible Dispatch in order that she may be returned by you to Fort St. George to be laden home from thence to Europe; But in case you shall have a full Cargo ready you are then to dispatch her therewith directly to Europe.

131. You will receive enclosed in the Packet by this Ship His Majesty's Pardons for Aupiah otherwise Opiah, Luckmuns and Nioundah, Lascars belonging to the Tryal Ketch as desired in the 11th Para. of your Letter of the 31st December 1767 and an Authenticated Copy of the said Pardons will be sent by the Ship Britannia.

We are  
Your loving Friends

Hy. Crabb Boulton/G. Colebrooke/Rob Jones/J. Purling/  
John Harrison/Edwd. Wheler/Fredk. Pigou/Jn. Wood-  
house/Ja. Cockburn/Peter DuCane Junr./J. Hurlock/  
J. Creswicke/Charles Chambers/Ben. Booth/J. Pardoe/  
G. Wombwell.

London 11th November 1768.

## LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1768

*Recruits for Bengal not to be detained on the way at Madras—bills of exchange—importation of saltpetre by private traders forbidden.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The Ship *Lioness* which was dispatched the 12th Ultimo conveyed to You Our General Letter under date of the 11th of last Month, And by the Royal *Charlotte* and *Britannia* now dispatching for *Madeira* and *Coast* and *Bay* you will receive Duplicate and Triplicate thereof.

2. In Our said Letter you were advised that each of the Ships *Royal Charlotte* and *Britannia* would be ordered to call at *Madeira* to take in Fifty Pipes of Wine. Our Agents there are now ordered to consign the same to you by Invoices and Bills of Lading, And our intentions respecting the disposal of the said Wines upon their arrival with you were particularly noticed in our aforesaid Letter.

3. The Consignments from hence for your Presidency on the said Ships will appear by their Invoices and Bills of Lading enclosed herewith, and

4. We likewise transmit in their Packets Lists of the Military who take passage on those Ships.

5. The *Neptune* for *Madeira* and *Coast* and *China* and the *Pigot* for *Theneriffe* and *Coast* and *China* are now also under dispatch.

6. Mr. *Jacob Rider* who was dismissed from Our Civil Service by the Select Committee at your Presidency on the 5th of January 1767 for having joined in an Address to Sir *Robert Fletcher* then under Sentence of a Court Martial having with great Submission acknowledged his inconsiderate and injudicious Conduct in so doing and as Mr. *Rider's* behaviour appears to have been blameless in all other respects we have restored him to the Station he formerly held in Our Service, and hope his Sense of Our Lenity and Indulgence herein will influence him to the strictest Obedience to his Superiors and a due regard to every other branch of his Duty.

7. Since We advised you under date of the 11th Ultimo of the

Names and Stations of the several Writers appointed for your Presidency this Season Mr. [.....] Hewitt having declined to Accept his Appointment therein We have substituted in his place Mr. Samuel Charters who is another Writer on the said List and in lieu of Mr. Samuel Charters we have in like manner substituted Mr. James Grant.<sup>1</sup>

8. Thomas Biggs who went out in the Calcutta in 1766 as a Gunner for the Train of Artillery at your Presidency being on account of his Education worthy of Our regard and proper to be advanced in Our Service We direct in case he has behaved to the satisfaction of his superior Officers that he take Rank as a Lieutenant Fireworker in your Artillery from the date of the receipt hereof, and he is to receive such further encouragement as his Merit may entitle him to.

9. The Consignments by the Royal Charlotte and Britannia being entirely designed for your Presidency those Ships are appointed to touch at Fort St. George only to land the Packets and Passengers We have therefore directed the President and Council there to perform that Service with the utmost expedition and thereupon immediately to dispatch them to Bengal, directing the Commanders to lose no time in the pursuit of their Passage thither.

10. As We apprehend the Number of Recruits designed for Fort St. George this season as advised in Our Letter of the 11th of November last will prove not only more than sufficient for their Occasions but also enable them to supply yours and Our Bombay Presidency with any part of them your respective exigencies may require, and being thus amply furnished We have positively directed the President and Council at Fort St. George not to detain any part of the Recruits by the Ships designed this Season for Bengal unless an unavoidable extremity of Affairs on that Coast shall absolutely compel them to that measure and the tranquil State of the Bengal Provinces shall fully justify them therein.

11. Since closing Our Advices of the 11th Ultimo We have thought proper to add Mr. James Bradshaw to the List of Supra-Cargos appointed to reside at Canton for the year 1770.

12. We have drawn upon you One Sett of Bills of Exchange for Rupees One Thousand or Pounds Sterling One hundred at Two Shillings the Rupee and thirty days Sight Payable to Mr. Samuel Dyer received of Richard Bosanquet Esqre. dated the 2d of December 1768.

13. Mr. Thomas Monkhouse whom We have entertained for the Pilot Service at Bengal takes passage on the Royal Charlotte.

14 Having reconsidered the Permission given to the China Council for receiving as far as Two hundred thousand Pounds into Our Cash at Canton at 5s 2d the weighty Dollar for Bills of Exchange to be drawn upon us as you were advised in Our Letter of 11th Ultimo and it appearing that Rate is not sufficiently encouraging to the Remitters We have for preventing disappointment in such Aid to the China Stock directed the Supra Cargos to pass their Bills on Us at 5s 3d a Dollar for the above Sum or any part thereof

15 As We experience very great inconveniences from the Importation of Salt Petre in Private Trade we are resolved to confine the Trade in that Article by Our Ships to the Company only, and notwithstanding any thing mentioned in the Indulgence to the Commanders, Officers &c of the Company's Ships, We have absolutely forbid their bringing it home upon any pretence whatever under pain of Forfeiture thereof incapacity of future employ in Our Service

We are

Your loving Friends

Hy Crabb Boulton/G Colebrooke/Rob Jones/J Purling/  
John Harrison/Fredk Pigou/Jn Woodhouse/Ja Cock  
burn/Peter DuCane Junr/J Hurlock/J Creswicke/Charles  
Chambers/Edwd Wheler/Ben Booth/J Pardoe/G Womb  
well

London 9th December 1768

14

LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1769

*Three dismissed military officers to be restored—navy donation  
—army donation—Bills of exchange*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 We have already wrote you this Season under Dates of the 11th November by the Lioness, Royal Charlotte and Britannia and of the 9th December last by the Royal Charlotte and Britannia a Triplicate of the latter goes enclosed in this Ships Packet

2 The Ship Lord Holland, Consigned to the Coast and Bay

being now under Dispatch, She will be ordered to call at the Island Theneriffe to take in 100 Pipes of Wine for your Presidency, which we have ordered our Correspondents there to Consign to you by Invoices and Bills of Lading.—Sixty Pipes thereof are to be Shipt by Messrs. Collogans and Forty Pipes by Messrs. Comyns and Company.

3. Notwithstanding the whole Consignments by the Lord Holland are for Bengal, as will appear by the Invoice and Bill of Lading enclosed, She will touch at Fort St. George to deliver our Packets for that Presidency and to land such of the Military Recruits on board her as the Situation of our Affairs there may render necessary.

4. The Military Recruits on board this Ship and the Ships sailed since our last Advices will appear by Lists thereof enclosed in the Packet.

5. Captain Henry Bevan, Lieutenant William Patton and Ensign Moses Crawford Officers on your Military Establishment who were dismissed our Service by your Select Committee on the 5th January 1767 for very improperly joining in an Address to Sir Robert Fletcher then under Sentence of a Court Martial, having with great Submission acknowledged their Rash and Injudicious Conduct on that occasion, We have upon due Consideration thereof, and that they do not appear to have Acted in any respects inconsistent with their Duty, thought proper to restore them to their former Ranks and Stations in the Service, hoping this instance of Lenity and Indulgence will stimulate them to the strictest regard to every Branch of their Duty to their Employers in future.

6. The Agents for the Donation to the Squadron from the Nabob Meer Jaffier in 1764, having renewed their pressing Solicitations to us that we would satisfy the Parties concerned therein by settling the Payment of it in some more decisive mode than was ordered in our Letter to you of the 11th November last Para. 122. Upon mature Consideration thereof and as a long time has elapsed since the 24th September 1766 when the Payment of this Donation was ordered by the General Court, We have Resolved, that the same shall be paid to the Agents for the Navy in Bengal as follows, One Moiety thereof before the Expiration of the present Year and the remaining Moiety at such time as may be most convenient to our Affairs within the term of the Year 1770, And that if any part less than One Moiety shall have been discharged before the Receipt of these Directions, that such a further Sum be advanced to the Agents as shall compleat the Payment of the first Moiety in 1769, and the other Moiety to be paid within the following year as abovementioned.

## LETTER FROM COURT

tioned—You are therefore Punctually to comply with our said Resolution and likewise to observe that these Payments are to be made in the same Specie of Rupees as the Nabob intended to give them and as the Donation to the Army about the same time was paid in

7 Having likewise been applied to by Captain Henry Mangin one of the Agents for the Donation to the Army from the Nabob Meer Jaffier in 1763 to order Payment to their Agents in Bengal of One hundred Fifty thousand Rupees being the part remaining undischarged of the said Donation we also direct that you pay that Sum to the Persons who are entitled to receive the same at such time as may be most convenient to your Treasury in the present Year

8 We have drawn upon you by this Ship One Sett of Bills of Exchange for Current Rupees One thousand three hundred or Pounds Sterling One hundred and Thirty at Two Shillings the Rupee and at Thirty days Sight Payable to Mr George Gode Fridus Draycott or Order received of George Dudley Esqr dated the 24th of January 1769

We are

Your loving Friends

Hy Crabb Boulton/John Stephenson/Rob Jones/John  
Harrison/Jn Woodhouse/Wm Snell/Daniel Wier/Wm  
James/Luke Scrafton/W Cruttenden/J Hurlock/Rd  
Bosanquet/J Pardoe/Ja Cockburn/Charles Chambers/  
Peter DuCane Junr /J Creswicke/Edw Wheler

London 26th January 1769

15

## LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1769

*Plowman to remain in Bengal in supersession of previous orders*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal Since closing the Dispatches by these Ships an Application has been made to us by Henry Vansittart Esqre representing that it would be attended with very great prejudice to his Concerns in Bengal, if Mr Henry Plowman should be obliged, agreeably to the Courts late orders to you, to proceed immediately to England, We

Our President and Council  
at Fort William in Bengal

Since closing the Dispatches by these Ships  
an application has been made to us by Henry Vandell Esq  
representing that it would be attended with very great  
prejudice to his concerns in Bengal, if Mr Henry Rowman  
should be obliged, agreeable to the Courts late orders to  
you, to proceed immediately to England, we therefore  
permit Mr Rowman to remain at Bengal, for collecting  
in Mr Vansittarts Outstanding Trading Concerns,  
another year.

London 22 March 1769

We are  
your loving Friends

Robert Boulton  
A. Colclough

John Ainslie  
Pa. Lockburn  
Wm. Menden  
Charles Chambers  
Wm. James  
J. Resorcke

Robt Jones  
Pere Cust.

J. Melling,  
John Harrison  
John Macpherson  
J. W. M. S. S.

J. M. S. S.

B. A. S. S.  
B. A. S. S.  
B. A. S. S.





therefore permit Mr. Plowman to remain at Bengal, for Collecting in Mr. Vansittarts outstanding Trading Concerns, another year.

We are

Your loving Friends

Hy. Crabb Boulton G. Colebrooke Rob. Jones Pere Cust/  
J. Purling John Harrison John Stephenson Jn. Wood-  
house J. Hurlock J. Pardoe Ben. Booth Rd. Bosanquet/  
Luke Scafton Jas. Cockburn W. Cruttenden Charles  
Chambers Wm. James J. Creswicke.

London 22nd March 1769.

## 16

### LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1769

*Net amount of illicit trade of officers of ships to be applied for the benefit of Poplar Hospital—pilot service regulations approved—asked to buy up silver for China investment from the French, the Dutch and the Danes who carried silver from Europe for investment—instructions concerning breeding of silk works, rawsilk and silk trade—remittances of the Company's servants by the Company's ships to bear a certain proportion to the investment—directions concerning vacancies in the Select Committee and military appointments—wanted full information concerning a charge against Reza Khan—bequest of Omichand.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Having in our General Advices of the 11th November last, wrote very fully in regard to the Affairs of your Presidency, and since addressed you two Short Letters under dates of the 9th December and 26th January last—We shall now proceed under the usual Heads to make such further Remarks upon your Advices—received in the past Season and give such Directions for your Conduct in the Management of our Affairs in Bengal as appear to us necessary and

#### *First of Shipping*

2. The Ships Duke of Grafton, Prince of Wales, Duke of Kingston and Anson Consigned to the Coast and Bay are now under Dispatch—And their Invoices and Bills of Lading enclosed will shew their Consignments to your Presidency The said Ships are

ordered to proceed first to Fort St George for delivering their Packets and Consignments for that Presidency, which is to be done and the Ships to be forwarded to Bengal with all Expedition

3 The several Ships which have sailed since Our last Advices thereof, with the Military Recruits sent on the Ships now under Dispatch for the Coast and Bay will appear by the Lists thereof enclosed in the Packets

4 Captain John Bowland having in his last Voyage shipt Twenty Eight Bales of Raw Silk on the Cruttenden in Bengal, We have after putting up the same at our Sales caused the Nett Amount thereof to be forfeited and to be applied for the Benefit of our Hospital at Poplar We mention this that you may be careful that no Branch of our Trade may be infringed by the Commanders and Officers of our Ships, and that you do not suffer them to lade other Articles than are allowed on the Company's Printed Indulgence, for if you do We shall not only deem you guilty of a great Breach of your Duty to us, but we have Resolved That the Net amount of such Illicit Trade shall in like manner be carried to the Advantage of the Poplar Fund

5 Upon settling with the Owners the Accounts of the Ships Lord Camden, Britannia and Pigot, the Captains of those Ships severally produced the Bills of Lading endorsed by your Import Warehousekeeper Mr Thomas Woodward 'received the Contents , notwithstanding which the following articles appear to have been short delivered at Bengal vizt

Copper, Lead Rod Iron, Chalk Iron, & Coals	P Lord Camden
Copper Lead & Iron	P Britannia
Copper and Lead	P Pigot

being prevented by this irregularity in the Import Warehouse keeper from recovering the Amount of the said short deliveries of the Owners, we have discharged the same from the Ships Accounts and in order to shew our displeasure at such an Erronious (*sic*) and negligent method of Conducting the Company's business and to deter others from Committing the like in future, We direct that you demand the Amount of the said short Deliveries of Mr Woodward on our account

6 Several Bales by the Ship Britannia being deficient of the number of Pieces said to be contained in them, We examined Our Warehousekeeper thereon, who declared the Wax Cloth and Wrappers of the Bales were cut through and the Gunneys sewed with Indian thread, We therefore agreed to discharge the Owners of that Ship from paying for the said Goods, as we are of Opinion

the frequent Deficiencies which happen in the Piece Goods must be occasioned by the Bales being Plundered in the Sloops employed to carry them on board the Ships in India, In order to prevent the like in future, We direct that such of Our Servants who are employed in this Business do take particular care that the Bales are sent under the Care of proper Persons who must see them delivered on board the Ships in whole Gunnies. that the Company may with certainty charge any Deficiency to the Owners where the Bales appear to have been plundered.

7. It is with surprize we observe you had not on the 11th March last received from Bombay the two Sloops which you requested them to Build in your Letter to them of the 24th October 1765, We shall signify our displeasure to them at this gross instance of neglect and possitively enjoin them to pay a more speedy and punctual Regard to your Demands for our Service in future.

8. The Regulations established on Consultations 26th August 1767 for the Pilots acquiring a more perfect knowledge of the River, We hope will answer that purpose, and prevent the frequent accidents which befall the Shipping thro' their Ignorance and inattention—We think your method of punishing the Pilots and Mates who attended the Northington and Calcutta, by reducing them to inferior Ranks, was very proper to impress them with a Sense of their Misconduct and warn others to a stricter attention to their Duty.

9. We have not yet had time to enquire into the Conduct of Captain Williams of the Hector and his Chief Officer in obliging the Sloops with the Company's Sepoys and Goods destined for the Coast, to lay for some time at Ingellee,<sup>1</sup> till the Private Trade was taken on board that Ship, whereby those Troops suffered great Hardships from the Severity of the Weather and Twenty Bales of Packing Stuff were lost. It is sufficient for the present to inform you, that we approve of your representing the same to the Presidency of Fort St. George for their making a proper Examination into the same and their Conduct on this Occasion is equally agreeable to us—And we shall on the strict enquiry intended to be made into Captain Williams's Conduct, pass such Censure thereon as it may appear to merit.

10. We are very sorry to learn that the Cuddalore Schooner which you sent into the Eastern Seas in search of the survivors of the Crew belonging to the Earl Temple, return'd without finding them. And as it appears this ill success was entirely owing to the misconduct of Mr. John Richman who was sent in Command of that Vessel you are to make a diligent Enquiry

Genl. Lre. from  
[12?] Febr'y. 1768  
Para. 13.

after him, and if he is found within the Jurisdiction of your Presidency he must be sent to Europe on the first Ship, as unworthy of our Protection, And you are to signify to Our other Presidencies to do the same if he shall be within the limits of their authority

11 As it has always been Customary for the Owners of Ships to Indemnify the Company for Damages and Deficiencies which happen to Goods after they are received on board, We can see no reason for your referring the Payment for those by the Lord Anson to Our Determination and we therefore expect that Justice be done to the Company in that Affair

Genl Lre from  
10 Decr 1767 Par 11  
to 16  
Genl Lre from  
14th March 1768  
Pa 9

*Secondly of Goods from Europe and from One part of India to Another*

12 Agreeably to your desire we have this year divided the Medicines on four Ships in nearly equal Proportions—and the first part were sent on the Lioness early in the Season—We have also nearly conformed to your Indents in the Amount

Genl Lre from  
14 Sepr 1767 Pa 19

13 It is with much Concern we observe the heavy Complaints from your Presidency of the Brass Field Pieces, and that among other Particulars it is said they appear to be tapped, in several Places, and that they are reported by the Commanding Officer of the Artillery to be made of a Metal, the Composition whereof is incapable of resisting Fire, even on the most ordinary occasions—We must remark there upon that the Field Pieces sent for several Years past to Fort St George and Bombay were made by the same Founder as those sent to Bengal, tho' it is from your Presidency alone that any Complaints have yet been received—All the Ordnance sent by the Company to India both Brass and Iron are constantly proved at His Majesty's Warren at Woolwich, under the immediate Direction and Inspection of the Kings Proof Masters and in every instance go thro' the same Proof, and Examination, as those intended for his Service, and those Proof Masters have given such full demonstrations of their particular attention to this business, that we have transmitted Our Thanks to the Board of Ordnance for the same, You have intimated your intentions of sending some of the Cannon Complained of to England as a Proof of the Badness of the Metal and Misconduct of the Founder, This would certainly be the best method of determining the Point, but we have not hitherto received any

14 We have paid the greatest attention to your earnest

solicitations that your Indents for Military stores may be fully complied with, and have sent such part thereof as We apprehend your occasions require. We have sent you this year Twenty thousand Muskets, which we esteem an ample Supply, when it is considered you had in your Armoury by the last return upwards of Twelve thousand, and that we sent you Ten Thousand last Season; And we have therefore deemed it unnecessary to make any Addition on account of the Sixteen Hundred Stand of Arms lost in the Passage to Patna.

15. Your Indent for Iron Guns for the use of the Marine at your Presidency, being so very large Vizt. for Eight hundred Guns from One to Four Pounders inclusive, and Five hundred Swivels, the Tonnage whereof would amount to upwards of Two hundred and seventy Tons, We conclude there must be some mistake in the Indent and have therefore sent about the Tenth part of the whole.

16. We have sent the several Articles desired for the use of your Assay Office.

17. The Sample of Agate Flints received from Governor Verelst P Admiral Pocock have been examined and the Stone is found of a quality which produces very good Fire, and is not so liable to break as the common Flint. They are however ill shaped and unserviceable; but if the makers can improve in cutting them, it is judged they will answer very well.

18. We have again cause to renew Our repeated Complaints of the Incorrectness of your Indents, as there appears a very material difference betwixt the two Indents received this Season from the Import Warehouse [.....], That by the Earl of Elgin mentioning One Thousand Bales of Emerald Green Cloth and One Thousand Bales of Yellow, and that by the Northington only One hundred Bales of each of those Sortments, by such Contradictory Accounts, we are put under great difficulties to ascertain your real demand we have however sent no more than One hundred Bales of each, as being most agreeable to your former Indents, you must signify to the Import Warehousekeeper; Our displeasure at this gross Error in the Accounts transmitted from his Office, and we positively enjoin you in making out your Indents in future to observe more attentively the Directions we gave on this Head in the 58th Paragraph of our Letter to you of the 12th January 1749 as we shall not henceforward pass over such Neglects without more severe marks of our Resentment.

19. It being necessary to supply our Island St. Helena with a proper Quantity of Madeira Wine for the use of our Servants as well as the Inhabitants there, We direct that you lade one of the

homeward Bound Ships from your Presidency, three Pipes thereof, which are to be Invoiced at the same Rate as we have ordered you to deliver it out at to the Company's Servants upon your Establishment

20 We are well informed that the French, Dutch, and Danes carry from Europe great Quantities of Silver to purchase their several Homeward Cargoes,—You must take every Opportunity of buying up the same for the use of our China Trade, which we hope will remove the difficulties you are under to procure Silver for that purpose, as represented in your several Letters received this Season

21 Enclosed in the Packet you will receive our Accountants Report of the Tower Assays of your Coins received this Season with his remarks thereon, which you are to observe with that attention which the importance of the Subject requires

22 Mr William Mirtle having represented to us, That he has at a considerable Expence obtained an entire knowledge of the Hill Country and of the Fir Trade there, which he alleges might be prosecuted with great advantage to the Company, And as we are desirous of Opening every Channel for Trade, and to shew Mr Mirtle some marks of our favor for the Material Services rendered us in 1763, when a French Squadron was cruising in the Bay, We therefore recommend it to you to consider whether the Scheme of Cutting Sticks for Masts and Yards and procuring Pitch, Tar &c in the Morung Country, can be carried into Execution for our Advantage, and in that case to Employ Mr Mirtle therein, granting him such Allowances and Encouragement as you may think the Nature of his Services may entitle him to—But if on the Contrary it should not appear for our Interest to prosecute this Trade, you are then to permit Mr Mirtle to reside in India Three years to settle his Private Affairs

23 The Sample of Firs received from your Presidency by the Lord Holland, have been examined by the Proper Officer, who reports that he found them too rotten to admit of their being made into yards and Booms by way of trial, the Sticks were very suppy, and had the heart been sound, they would not have Worked more than six Inches Diameter, tho' they measured about Twelve

### *Thirdly of Investments*

24 We now send Lists of Investment to be made in Bengal for the Ships to be returned from thence in the Season of 1769 wherein we have inserted several Directions and Observations for your guidance, to which you are to pay the same attention and Obedience as if they were inserted in this Letter

25. Notwithstanding we have in the list of Investment limited the quantity of Cotton Yarn to be sent from Bengal, We do permit you to send us double the quantity of the Sortments there ordered if you can procure it of equal Goodness with that sent home for some years past, and for that purpose you may make a small advance in the price if necessary.

26. The great abuses committed by the English Residents throughout the Provinces in the carrying on their Private Trade, induced us to order those Residents to be withdrawn, but now that we flatter ourselves we have rooted out those Baneful Monopolizing Principles, we shall not be averse to the restoring the Residency's where it is absolutely essential to the Provision of the Investment, If you therefore deem it necessary to re-establish a Company's Servant in the Residency of Malda, You have Our permission, but no other Residencies are to be established without our express Orders.

27. We have observed in our List of Investment that the Gurrahs and Baftaes rec'd from Chittagong this year prove full of Holes<sup>1</sup> and frequently Rotten, and it has since appeared by the many Complaints made by the Buyers that these defects are not only found in the Goods from Chittagong but in those of many other Factory's, and chiefly in the Articles of Baftaes, Cossaes, Emmerties and Gurrahs.<sup>2</sup>—It is likewise complained that they are short of the Invoice length, Some of them One and a half to two yards in a Piece, and for this deficiency in the articles of Gurrahs We have been obliged to make an allowance of three Shillings a Piece.

28. Our Warehousekeeper also informs us that he has found some Bales marked Baftaes which proved to be Emmerties, and others mark'd GUR of Eighteen Yards which measured but Fifteen Yards, which we apprehend has been occasioned by packing them into wrong Bales.

29. If these several Complaints are not remedied they will bring the Goods from those Factorys into great disrepute here, and occasion a great loss to us, by having the Goods returned or making large allowances to the Buyers, We therefore most earnestly enjoin you to give the Strictest orders to those who are entrusted, to Measure or Pack the goods, to be more circumspect to prevent the same in future.

30. Tho' there is no Branch of our Trade which we more ardently wish to extend than that of Raw Silk, We cannot think of effecting it by any measures that may be oppressive to the Natives or an infringement of that Freedom, Security and Felicity we would wish them to enjoy under Our Government and Protection We would not therefore have any Compulsory Methods taken to encrease the



Number of Silk Winders but we think this might be effected in such a way as would make their Advantage coincide with ours, we mean by encreasing their wages so as to make their monthly allowance greater than that of a day Labourer or Common workman in any other Business, which we find it is at present far short of, and in particular—We would have you endeavor to induce the Manufacturers of Wrought Silk to quit that Branch and take to the winding of Raw Silk

31 We would have you give such Encouragement to the Cultivation of the Mulberry Plant, as to make it more general thro' the Bengal Province—One obvious means occurs for this purpose which is to allow such a deduction in the Rents of the Lands as are planted with this Shrub, as a Bounty for raising it, as will make it a more profitable Culture than that of any other Article—Many other expedients may be found to promote and extend this branch of the Investment, which must be left to your further Enquiries and Experience and which may certainly be effected, since the produce of Raw Silk seems at present confined to particular Spots, tho' it is evident that almost any Soil or Air will agree both with the Cultivation of the Mulberry Plant and Breeding of Worms, which we strongly enjoin you to attend to

32 In the purchase of the Silk from the first hands we recommend you to give an encreased Price, if necessary, so as to take that Trade out of the Hands of other Merchants and Rival Nations

33 It appears by your Consultations 17th April 1758 an Agreement was made with all the Merchants of Cossimbazar to prevent the Surdars (or Heads of the Silk Winders) from Winding Off Silk in their Houses, which was attended with many Frauds and Abuses, This Regulation seems to have been productive of very good effects, particularly in bringing over the Winders who were formerly so employed to work in the Factories—Should this Practice thro' inattention have been suffered to take place again, it will be proper to put a stop to it, which may now be more effectually done by an absolute Prohibition under severe Penalties by the Authority of the Government

34 Many Complaints have from time to time been made of the Inequality and frequent breaks in the Threads of the Bengal Silk, To prevent these Defects, as well as to shorten the labour and lessen the Expence of so many successive Operations as the Silk passes thro', to the State in which we receive it, the most eligible Improvement would be, to have it wound off at once from the Coccons into Skains of such Quality and Dimensions as may fit it for the European Markets after the manner of China and Italian Raw

Silk. This has been often recommended and attempted, but the Success hitherto has not been such as to give much room to hope for any Quantity manufactured in that way. We can easily conceive the difficulties which must attend an attempt to change the general and established practice of the Country which leads us to hope for greater Advantages by improving upon the Methods already in use.

35. We are informed that an Order was obtained in the year 1758 from the Nabob to oblige all the Catannees (or those who wind the Silk from the Cocoons) to work only with Reels; to confine the Reels to the same Dimensions as those in general use in the neighbourhood of Cossimbazar, to wind off a Quantity of Silk in each Skain sufficient to prevent the Threads from Separating or being entangled in the Carriage from Place to Place, and to tie the Knot in the middle, instead of the end, which is the practice with the Luckypoor and other fine Putney. This Regulation we understand did not effectually take place, by reason of the want of proper Authority to enforce it, and other Causes, which we suppose would not have the same influence at this time—We conceive that such an injunction would contribute exceedingly to prevent the Defects arising from the first winding of the Silk, and recommend it to the attention and Judgment of the Chief and Council of Cossimbazar.

36. Being satisfied that Mr. John Chamier whom we formerly recommended to be employed in Superintending this Branch, is very well Qualified to render us good Services therein, We have in order to encourage him to give his sole attention to this Business, thought proper to settle upon him the same Appointments as the late Mr. Wilder enjoyed, which are to be paid at Bengal, and were as follow £400 P Annum for Salary & £10 P Month for Subsistence and in lieu of Diet Money, to have a suitable Apartment provided for him wherever he shall be Resident—And you are likewise to discharge such Expences as he may incur by his proceeding from place to place on the Company's Business.

37. Mr. Joseph Pouchon having given us Proofs of his knowledge in the Management of the Raw Silk Investment, you are likewise to continue to employ him in Superintending this Branch under Mr. Chamier and for his Services therein you are to allot him such Salary and Allowances as you may judge adequate to his Merits.

38. These Gentlemen are to proceed to the Factory's (*sic*) and Aurungs where Raw Silk is produced and continue there so long as may be necessary for Instructing the Winders and others employed in this Business as was done by the late Mr. Wilder—You are to give them every Assistance they may want for prosecuting their measures for the Improvement of the filature of the Silk and encrease of the

Number of Silk Winders, but we think this might be effected in such a way as would make their Advantage coincide with ours, we mean by encreasing their wages so as to make their monthly allowance greater than that of a day Labourer or Common workman in any other Business which we find it is at present far short of, and in particular—We would have you endeavor to induce the Manufacturers of Wrought Silk to quit that Branch and take to the winding of Raw Silk

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Worms &c so far as they appear eligible to you forwarding to us your Correspondence on this Subject

39 Upon reconsidering the Subject of Remittances We find it so connected with that of the Investment that the Encrease of the former must always depend upon that of the latter—The Produce of Our Sales here is the only Channel of our Receipts and Our flourishing situation in India would not avail us, if we were to suffer Ourselves to be drawn upon to the Amount of the Cost of Our homeward Cargoes—In order therefore to unite the Advantages of the Company and their Servants we do permit you to encrease your Remittances by the Ships Dispatched from Bengal in the Season of 1769 beyond the Limitation in our Letter of the 11th November last, so far as One half of the Sum which your Investment sent home in that Season shall exceed the Amount of Sixty Lacks in Piece Goods and Raw Silk, at the rate of 2s 3d the Current Rupee But if you do not send home an Investment in those Articles exceeding that Sum you must then confine your Draughts upon us agreeably to Our said Letter of the 11th of November last

*Fourthly of the Trade of India Transactions with the Country Government and other European Nations*

40 We are very well pleased to see from your Advices that the King of Pegu is favorably disposed to Cultivate a Friendship with us having given the Company a spot for Building a Factory in his Country with an Elephant &c And as we are of Opinion a Trade may be driven thither for our Advantage, We have directed the Presidency of Madrass to establish a Settlement there, wherein you are to give them all the assistance in your Power

41 We can not at present give you any directions in regard to the Ship sent by the King of Pegu as a present to the Governor, as it appears you had ordered her to be returned to the King under a trusty Commander to enquire into his real Intentions concerning her When we are possessed of that information you will receive Our further Orders

42 Some Disputes having lately arisen between the Dutch and Spanish Nations in Regard to the latters Right of sending Ships to the East Indies by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, and these Disputes having by Letter been communicated to us by direction of the Earl of Shelburne one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State we have on a full consideration of the Matter, given Our Opinion thereon in a Letter dated the 22nd June last addressed to Richard Sutton Esqre for the Information of his Lordship, which is 'That it appears manifestly from the Treaties relative to the First

Indies, and particularly by the 5th Article of the Treaty of Munster in 1648 concluded between Spain and Holland, and several other Papers referr'd to in the course of this Business, That the Spaniards have no Right either to go or return from the East Indies by the Cape of Good Hope."

43. And that you may receive the necessary information upon this important Point We now send you Copies of both the Letters above referred to, as likewise of some Papers transmitted to us from the Secretary of State upon the occasion.

*Fifthly of Fortifications, Buildings and Revenues*

44. We are very glad the mode of Carrying on the Public Works by Contract Answers your Expectations. As soon as Mr. Engineer Campbell enters on his Office, he must prepare to give his Opinion on the Plan in general and on the time and Expence necessary to compleat it, and we recommend to you to continue the weekly Report by one of the Council.

*Sixthly and Seventhly of Covenanted and Military  
Servants and Accounts*

45. It being necessary to provide for the Succession to such Vacancies as may happen in your Select Committee by the Death or coming away of the present Members, We direct that in case of any such Vacancies Mr. James Alexander and Mr. Claud Russel be taken into the Committee; but it is our Intention that the Committee shall never consist of more than five Members, And if it should at any time be reduced under that number, and there shall not be any Persons of our Nomination to Succeed, it is then to be left to the Committee to fix upon such of the Council as they think proper to fill up the Vacancies agreeably to Our Orders of the 17th May 1766.

48 Mr Montagu Burman who accompanied Lord Clive to Bengal having requested Permission to remain in India under our Protection, We have granted Our Licence for that purpose, so long as he behaves to the Satisfaction of our respective Presidencies where he may be resident

49 We were much surprized to receive a few days since a Packet from our Servants at Bussorah, enclosing a Letter to Lord Clive said to be on matters of great importance relative to the Company's Affairs, but no Public Letter accompanied it We desired Lord Clive to communicate such part of his advices as might be interesting to the Company, who obligingly sent us a Copy of a Letter from Sir Robert Barker to his Lordship dated at Faizabad 21st April last, and solely relative to the Company's Affairs Sir Robert Barker would incur Our Severest displeasure did it not appear to us that he must be ignorant both of our repeated Orders to all our Servants never to omit any opportunity of Communicating Intelligence to us and not to make the Company's Affairs the Subject of Private Letters

50 We shall therefore pass over Sir Robert Barker's Conduct herein, but you are to signify to all our Servants Civil and Military that they are not to make the Company's Affairs the Subject of their Private Letters, and that when any opportunity offers of communicating any intelligence to us by the Channel which from distance or particular local Circumstances cannot be known to our Governor and Council they are not to fail to write to us, and it is of so much importance to us to have constant intelligence, that you are hence forward to write us every two Months between the Dispatch of the 1st Ship of each Season and the first of the next, you are to transmit these Letters to the Chief of Surat and the express that goes from the Presidency is to call at Patna, or the most distant Place where any of our Servants Civil or Military are stationed, and they are to add to the Dispatches from the Presidency such intelligence as may be most material relative to the situation of Affairs where they are, Observing that when they have any thing to communicate, the knowledge of which might be dangerous in other hands, they are to communicate the same in cypher, and we have given the proper directions to our Chief at Surat to forward the same to us with all Expedition

51 You were acquainted in Our Letter of the 16th March 1768 that we had appointed Charles Champion Esqr to the Rank of

Para 97 101 Lieutenant Colonel upon our Military Establishment at Bengal, and had given him permission to remain here 'till this Season for the recovery of his Health he has accordingly taken Passage on the Ship Havanna, and upon his

arrival in Bengal is to take Rank in the manner mentioned in our said Letter.

52. William Thomson Esquire who was appointed last year a Captain of Infantry upon the Bengal Establishment being prevented proceeding thither at that time We have permitted him to take passage on one of the Ships of this Season. Upon his Arrival in Bengal he is to take Rank next below the youngest Captain whom he shall then find on your Establishment.

53. Christopher Horsfall Esqr. one of the Captains of Infantry appointed for your Presidency last year having declined to accept the said nomination. We have thereupon appointed Adam Callendar Esqr. to be a Captain of Infantry at Bengal, and he is to take rank next below the youngest Captain upon your establishment on his Arrival at your Presidency and after Captain William Thomson mention'd in the preceding Paragraph.

54. We have appointed Mr. Charles Kingsley to be a Practitioner Engineer, with the Rank of Ensign upon our Bengal Establishment, and recommend it to you to make use of his Abilities in that Branch in such manner as may be most serviceable to us.

55. When we made Our Military Appointments for Bengal last Season Ralph Winwood Esqr. late Major and Commandant of your Artillery, who had come home that Season for recovery of his Health, was, thro' extreme Illness unable to make Application to Us in time to take place in those Appointments, but his Health being now Re-established, and having desired to return to his Rank in the Service at your Presidency under Colonel Grant, as he cannot at present obtain the Command of the Artillery there, We have in Consideration of his long and useful Services to the Company Appointed him to the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel on your Establishment next below Lieutenant Colonel Leslie, and upon his Arrival at Bengal you are to employ him in such manner as you shall think most for the Company's Service, untill the Command of the Artillery shall become Vacant, when he is to succeed thereto.

56. Lieutenant Anthony Sloane who was obliged to Resign his Commission upon your Establishment and proceed to Europe for Recovery of his health, having obtained a Re-establishment thereof, and desired Our leave to return to his Duty, We have accordingly permitted him to proceed to Bengal, and upon his arrival there he is to have the same Rank on your Establishment as he would have enjoyed provided he had not been obliged to repair to Europe.

57. It appears from your Letter of the 6th September 1766



that you had extended your lenity and forgiveness to the most innocent of those Officers on your Establishment who were concerned in the late Mutiny—Mr. Alexander Scerwin

Para. 22 to 25. and James Watts who were likewise Parties in that Affair having been recommended to us to receive the same favor, We direct that you take their Cases under Consideration, and if there does not appear any very material objections, you are to restore them to their former Ranks and Stations on your Military Line.

58. In our Letter of the 11th November last, you were acquainted that we should hold you strictly responsible for the

Para. 102 & 104. exercise of the unlimited Authority we had given you over the Military.—And we Observed there appeared a great partiality in your Choice of the Officer for the Command of the Detachment sent to the Decan.

59. We have since received Advices from Fort St. George which furnish us with stronger Grounds to Condemn that measure it appearing from thence that your Partiality was extended so far as to Indulge that Officer with acting as Contractor to the Infantry under his Command, whilst the Commandant of your Artillery on that Service was likewise to be Commissary to that Corps.

60. Thus you have not only Injured the Officer whose Right it was to have commanded that Detachment, but acted in Contempt of all Military Regulations in making the Commanding Officers who should check and Controul the Contractor and Commissary, to act in those very Capacities themselves and thereby exposing the Company to every kind of Fraud and Imposition, without the proper means of Detection.

61. In our said Letter we intimated Our Apprehensions that the great difference between the Batta allowed your Troops and those belonging to Fort St. George acting in the

Para. 105. Decan, would create dissensions very detrimental to the Service—by the Advices from Madrass it appears there was likewise a great inequality between them with respect to Diet, your Troops being allowed 2 lb. of Meat a day and those of Fort St. George but One Pound—The Effects of this disparity, were, the Bengal Troops grew Mutinous on the Reduction of their Batta, whilst those of Fort St. George did the same on account of the disparity betwixt their Allowance and those of the Bengal Forces.

62. We expect Our three Principal Presidencies to co-operate in forming some Plan that may prevent this in future, in which due Consideration must be had to the Rate of Provision in the several Countries where they may act, and we hope by a communication of Sentiment to each other this great Evil may be prevented and the

Troops of the several Presidencies be brought to Act Jointly whenever it may be needful with that Harmony which the general Welfare of the Company requires.

63. The double Posts held by the Bengal Officers seem likewise to have created great Jealousies, those too must be discussed, for we must not suffer such trifling Considerations to come in competition with the Succours that must be mutually afforded by the several Presidencies for the general Preservation of the whole.

64. In our Letter to your Select Committee of the 16th March 1768, we desired you would for the future discontinue the taking any Contracts from the Company's Officers, We are now Confirmed in that Opinion from the Fate the Actions brought against Lord Clive by Captains Parker and Vertue for Imprisoning them, and bringing them to their Trials in Bengal, after the Resignation of their Commissions, lately met with—The Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Kings Bench has declared it to be clearly his Opinion, that the Officers who enter into the Company's Service are as much bound by the Mutiny Act for India, as those in the Kings Service, and that their ent'ring into a Contract would empower them fully to quit or resign their Commissions at the end of that Period which by Law they cannot now do, but on reasonable Notice and when their immediate Service is not required—Upon this Authority we repeat Our Directions, that you do not suffer any Officers in India to enter into any written Contract with the Company.

65. It being our firm intention to abide by the Military Establishment settled last Season for your Presidency, We therefore direct that if at any time the Forces in Bengal shall exceed that Settlement you do not on any pretence form the Surplus into New Corps or Companies, in order to provide for any Supernumerary Officers you may have, but that you dispose of the extraordinary number by attaching them to the several Companies upon the present Establishment, for we absolutely will not allow of your exceeding it without our express Permission first obtained for that purpose.

66. Having frequently inculcated on our several Presidencies the necessity of their considering the Welfare of the whole as a Common Cause, and that they must accordingly unite in Support of each other to the utmost of their Abilities, we have with this View directed the Presidency of Madrass in case they shall have a greater Number of Men than was fixed for their Establishment last Season, to send so many to Bombay as may be necessary to compl[ete?] their Establishment to Fifteen Hundred Europeans.

67. Enclosed you will receive a List of the Cadets proceeding

to your Presidency this Season, who are to succeed to Commissions in the Order they are therein named, after those are provided for whom we sent Out last year, with this Exception, that if any of them have borne Commissions in His Majesty's Service, upon producing the same to you or authenticated Copies thereof, they are to have the preference agreeably to the Dates of their said Commissions

68 In the Lists of Cadets at Bengal which you were before directed to send Us every Season, you must be careful to mention how those sent you are provided for, and if any of them behave unworthy of the Service let them be sent home by the first Ship without waiting for further Orders

69 We have not received this Season any List of Military Officers and Cadets on the Bengal Establishment, tho' we have repeatedly ordered them to be sent home Annually in Duplicate—We find entered on your Committees Proceedings of the 4th September 1767 a list of your Officers but it is imperfect, as it contains none above Captains besides there must have happened many material Alterations between that time and the Dispatch of your last Ship—The want of such Intelligence has laid us under great difficulties and therefore we highly resent this Instance of Negligence and Disobedience In your Lists of Military Officers those Serving in the Seapoy Battalions must be distinguished from the rest

70 You have merited a like reprehension for omitting to send us Lists of the Surgeons employed in our Service upon the Bengal Establishment, and of Free Merchants, Seafaring People and all other Europeans residing under the Jurisdiction of your Presidency specifying whether with or without our Licence It appears by your Consultation of the 14th September 1767 that a Register of European Inhabitants residing within the Bengal Provinces was delivered in to you by the Secretary and being imperfect was returned to be corrected and sent home by the latter Ship,—but we do not find any further notice taken of this Matter—You must therefore Reprimand the Secretary in our Name for this Neglect of Duty

71 Notwithstanding we have repeatedly required you to transmit us annually complet Muster Rolls of all our Troops serving upon your Establishment formed and Attested in the manner pointed out in the 20th Article of Our Military Regulations of the 17th June 1748 there has not been any such received from you for several years past, for which Neglect the Officers whose Duty this was, have merited Our Severest Displeasure We therefore positively enjoin, that in future you do at stated yearly Periods

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require the Military Paymaster to deliver in to you Compleat Muster Rolls of all Our Bengal Europeans Forces made out agreeably to the forms enclosed in the Packets by these Ships which are to be transmitted to us in Duplicate at least every Season, and we trust the Commander in Chief will Assist all in his Power to carry this Rule into execution—The Absolute Necessity of transmitting such Rolls must be obvious to the slightest Reflection, the Friends of the Europeans are continually applying to us for information of their Situation and condition, and it is a Duty we owe to the Public to give them all possible Satisfaction herein, besides it is frequently of great moment in cases of Inheritance that Interested Parties should be well assured of the existence or otherwise of Individuals of which they are obliged to remain in total Ignorance and perplexity for want of proper information being conveyed to us, We do therefore insist on your punctually complying with these Orders as no excuse will avail the Officer whose Duty this is; for future Disobedience thereto.

72. We are tired with Censuring such flagrant instances of Disobedience to Our Express Orders and therefore positively direct, that you do in future issue Precepts from your Board at a proper time before the Dispatch of your first and last Ship of each Season, requiring the respective Officers to whom it belongs, to deliver in to you on a certain day appointed for Signing the Ships Dispatches, the several Lists of Covenant Servants, Military Officers and Cadets, Surgeons, Free Merchants, and others under the Bengal Establishment, made Out agreeably to Our former Orders.—And it must be Minuted on your Records when you issue such Orders, and what Papers, are delivered in Consequence—Hereby we shall be able to fix upon those Servants who are remiss in these Points of Duty and punish them accordingly—And this must be a standing and invariable Rule which must be kept up to, as well by you as the inferior Servants, and we shall hold both Responsible in this respect.

73. The great number of Military Invalids Annually sent home from Our several Presidencies, besides the Charge incurred for their Passage, bring upon us a very heavy Expence by occasional Sums given for their present Relief under the miserable Circumstances in which they are disembarked here. Being desirous as far as possible to put a stop to the Return of these People, it is strongly recommended to you to dissuade them from leaving your Presidency, and in order to Encourage such to remain there who are really incapable of future Service, or of providing for themselves, We do allow of your putting them on the List of Pensioners on the Terms settled in the Code of Military Regulations, sent you last year; and that we may be informed of the Names of those who country to all

persuasion, shall refuse to accept of such Provision, and insist on their return, as well as of those who having served their Contracted times, and tho' not incapable of Service, refuse to stay, you must fully inform us, by Lists sent in the Packets by the Ships on which they shall embark, of the circumstance[s] of their respective Cases that we may be enable (*sic*) to determine whether they are proper Objects of Compassion, and as such intitled to any Relief however we trust from your Attention to this our urgent recommendation, you will suffer such only to embark for Europe, as from unavoidable necessity you shall be induced to grant liberty for so doing.

74. It has happened of late years amongst the many Natives of India who have been sent to England as Servants to Gentlemen of their Families returning home, that several have been forsaken entirely by the Persons in whose Service they engaged, and these poor Creatures from their destitute Circumstance in this distant Land, have Petitioned us for going back at the Company's Expence, on board their Ships, which not only from the distress of these Indigents, but to prevent reflections on us in this respect from the People of India, we have been induced to grant In order therefore to remedy these Grievances in future you are hereby directed not to permit any Person whatever on returning to England to take with them a Native of India, without giving Security for every such Native in the Sum of £50—for preventing their being Chargeable to the Company in any manner whatever—And you must send us such Bonds in the Packets by the Ships whereon any Indian Servants embark, that in case of necessity we may put the same in suit here.

75. It appearing that Mr. Charles Grant Cadet for Bengal and Mr. John Douglas Free Merchant for Fort St. George who were Passengers in the Ship Admiral Watson were the Principal Persons concerned in Clandestinely Shipping the three Boxes of Jewelry &c. seized on board that Ship at Plymouth mentioned in the 127 Paragraph of Our Letter to you of the 21st November last; you are therefore to acquaint the said Mr. Grant that we highly resent his being guilty of so notorious a breach of his Duty, and if Mr. Douglas is at your Presidency, let him likewise know that his share in that Affair renders him very unworthy Our Protection, and acquaint them both it will depend on their future good Conduct to wipe off the unfavorable Impression this Offence has given us.

76. One Michael Law Servant to Mr. Matthewson Supra Cargo for Mocha having taking passage on board the Royal Charlotte without the Company's License and entered into Major Pemble's Company at Bombay—you are to make enquiry if the said Law is Resident under your Presidency, and if not engaged in Our Military

Service, you are to send him to England by the first Conveyance—The same directions are given to our other Presidencies.

77. Since we wrote you on the 11th November last Para. 119 regarding the demand of Bolackidass, having received another Memorial from his Agent Mr. Van Colster thereon, we send enclosed a Copy thereof, And further direct that you immediately set about a very particular examination whether the Money lent the Company by Bolackidass as mentioned in our Letter of 20th November 1768 Para. 84 was actually his Property or not, for this purpose you must apply to all such Persons as you think can give any insight into this matter, and in particular to the Officers of the Government at Dacca and to Mahomed Reza Cawn, who we suppose held a principal Post in that Government at the Period when the loan was made, upon the whole you are to do strict Justice betwixt him and the Company in the Affair, and enter your Proceedings thereon on your Records for our information—We have lent Mr. Van Colster the further Sum of £500—to defray the Expences he has incurred in England and Charge of his Passage to India, for which he has given Bills on Bolackidass which are enclosed in the Packet herewith.

78. In our Letter of the 11th November last We reprehended you for Neglecting to give us the Information required regarding this Demand you have also merit[ed] very Severe Censures for withholding the like information in respect to two other very important Subjects of Our Orders Vizt. The Charge against Mahomed Reza Cawn of not having fairly accounted to the Nabob Meer Jaffier for the Revenues of the Dacca Province whilst he held the Government thereof—And the particulars of the Claims made on account of Restitution for Private Losses sustained by the War in the year 1763—We do positively insist upon your giving us all the Information which can be procured upon those important Subjects.

79. The Governors of the Foundling & Magdalen Charities having severally solicited us to allow their respective Moiety of the Sum of Current Rupees 37500—left by Omichund to the said Charities to be paid into Our Cash at Bengal, & that Interest Notes may be granted for the same and the Interest thereof annually remitted to England by Bills upon us for the benefit of the said Charities—We do therefore permit you, agreeably to their desire, to receive the same into Our Cash, & grant Interest Notes for One year in the usual manner for the said respective Moiety on account of those Charities, which Notes may be renewed from year to year, & the Interest thereof remitted by Bills upon us 'till you receive Our Orders to the Contrary. We likewise allow you to grant Notes and remit the Interest in the same manner for such further Sums

as may be paid into your Cash on Account of the Magdalen Charity which the Governors have likewise requested

80 The Friends of Joseph Harris deceased late Surgeon of the Ship Norfolk requesting that the Sum of Rupees 9420 12 9 deposited in Bengal on Account of his Estate by Captain Sandys Commander of that Ship may be remitted to England by a Certificate payable to his Legal Representatives here—As it does not appear by your Records you have granted any Remittances on account of the said Mr Harris's Estate We direct that you grant a Certificate for the said Sum in favor of his Legal Representative here accordingly

81 You are to take care in future that the Sum of Five Thousand Pounds for which you are Allowed to give Certificates to the Commander & Officers of each of Our Freight'd Ships be duly distributed amongst them according to the Proportions of their Indulgence of Tonnage in Private Trade and you must not suffer any Commander or Officer to have a greater share therein than he is so entitled to but in case of the Decease of any Commander or Officer you are to grant a Certificate on account of his Estate in the same proportion as he would have been allowed if living

82 The frequent errors discovered in your Bills of Exchange & Advices thereof is a strong evidence of the Carelessness & Irregularity of transacting Our Business in your Offices several Bills have been presented which you have never advised—and in many others there is a material disagreement betwixt your advices and the Bills themselves but as these Mistakes would be too tedious to enumerate here we have sent an Account thereof in the Packet—To which is added some other disagreements which appeared between your Register of Diamonds and the Marks on the Bulces—you are to call the proper Officers before you and reprimand them in our Name for their Negligence in these respects and charge them to be more exact in executing the Business of their Offices lest we should Censure such Negligence in future with more severity

83 The institution of proceedings of your Committee of Inspection being of great Utility in regulating and conducting the Books and Accounts of the several Offices and also for reforming any improper Conduct in Our Servants or in the Police of your Presidency—We earnestly recommend it to the Committee to continue to give the necessary attention to so useful an Appointment and we hope that no future Event will occasion so long a Recess as appears on their Proceedings transmitted by the Admiral Pocock which was from November 1766 to August 1767 for you must be sensible that without a continued care in the execution of the best

regulated Plan, a Relaxation if not a total neglect is too apt to ensue. .

84. While we with pleasure observe your Endeavors to Establish a System of Prudence and Economy among our Servants, We cannot but recommend to your attention the same Mode of Conduct in the General Expences of Your Presidency, otherwise we fear that your attempts to produce Moderation among Individuals will be without any Effect.

85. In your Public System you seem to entertain the Idea that the Company are to adopt the Eastern Parade and Dignity, but we are of Opinion (as we have repeatedly observed to you) that European Simplicity is much more likely to engage the Respect of the Natives than an Imitation of their manners.

86. This reflection occurs to us from a view of your Buxey Connah Expences in which appears a great Increase in all the Articles which relate to Parade and ostentation—Such we consider the Sum of Twelve Thousand Arcot Rupees for Fireworks and upwards of Seven Thousand Current Rupees for Four Entertainments—the several Journey's of Our President at the time of the Poonah or on other occasions appears to us to be Accompanied with more Magnificence and Expence than we can suppose necessary, even considering him as Duan of the Empire.

87. And here we cannot but remark that the Presents given the Vackeels of Sujah Dowla and Moneera Dowla in September 1767 were much greater than were given them in January preceding 1767 however Custom may have made it expedient to bestow Presents at the time of the Poonah, or on any extraordinary occasion, these should by no means be extended beyond what have been Customary on the like occasions as such a Precedent will probably be the grounds of future expectations which it may not be thought prudent to disappoint.

88. In the Presidents Bills we observe also various Charges which seem to be rather on his own account than for General Service under which they are placed in the Buxey's Account's such as Farm Yard Charges and Wages of Domestick Servants of almost every Denomination.—As we have given our President so ample an Appointment both with respect to Salary and Commission, We not only meant but expressed it to be in full for every Consideration whatever and therefore require that no Article of his Private or Domestick concerns be defrayed by the Company.

89. As to the Monthly charge of the Governors House, we cannot form any Judgment of the Propriety thereof as you have not



explained whether the same is in the Fort or Elsewhere but should it be for any separate House belonging to the President this Charge must be discontinued.

90. From these and many other Articles of Expence which have lately made a part of the Buxey's Charges, It is become highly expedient for your Committee of Inspection to examine the Particulars of his Disbursements and if any Charges should appear either wholly unnecessary or too lavishly indulged we expect the former will be forborn and the latter kept within due bounds.

91. We are the more induced to require a proper Attention to this Object as by the Monthly Abstracts of your Expences it appears that they amount to so immoderate a Sum that your Revenues (large as they are) do not afford a Surplus adequate to the advantages we expected from them. And your complaints of Inability to answer the several Demands on your Presidency convince us of the Necessity of reducing your Charges as far as is consistent with the safety of the Company's Possessions and the Rank they hold in the Empire of Indostan.

92. By the Treasury Account of the Subah Bahar for the year ending 10th September 176[ ] We find the Charges attending the Collections of those Revenues to a very great amount. But as that account is an Abstract we can at present only testify our Surprize at the great reduction of the Revenues by monthly allowances, Charges General and Charges Durbar, And at the same time must complain of your omitting to send us the Particulars referr'd to in the Account whereby we might see if those Charges are justly founded or if any Reduction can be made therein.

93. But we do not hereby confine our Requisition to the Charges of the Bahar Collections, for with regard to all the other Revenues we expect to receive every year a distinct State of each whereby we may be enabled to see not only the amount of the Sums received and the Arrears due thereon, but also the particulars of the Charges at the Durbar and other Places of Collection.

94. As the Period of your General Books is too distant from the time of your Dispatches for us to receive from them the requisite Information in respect to the State of your Charges you did well in sending to us an Abstract of the General Monthly Expences of your Presidency, which you must continue to supply us with every year. But we are at a loss to account for the difference we find in those Abstracts from some of your subsidiary Books—The Buxey's in particular do not Agree with your Abstract of his Disbursements, at least we are not enabled to judge what Part is omitted in forming the Monthly Totals—This uncertainty as to the Exactness of your

General Abstracts you must remove by explaining to us if they are to be considered as Rough Statements only, or are so carefully formed by the respective Offices that proper dependence may be placed on them.

95. We have so frequently required of you, to send us a Series of the General Books of your Subordinates for the several years they have been omitted as well as those of the Current year, that it is with the utmost Surprise we find our positive orders in no part complied with so manifest a Neglect of our repeated Directions when it was evidently in your Power to have executed them, in part at least, merits a Reprehension we wish to avoid—But as any future Omission in this respect will force from us something more than Censure, We expect and require that in case Our several Orders on this Subject be not fully complied with by the return of this years Ships, you point out to us the Person or Persons to whom the Omission is Chargeable that Our Blame may be directed to such only as may be Culpable.

96. With respect to the Books of Patna Factory which you represent as impossible to be adjusted from the Confusion in which they remain by reason of the Troubles in 1756 and 1763 and for want of many materials requisite for a regular Adjustment—As there appears no remedy in the Present Case—And it is with the utmost impatience we wait for the Books of all your Subordinates we must refer it to you to give directions to your Accountant to Adjust the Books of Patna Factory upon the best materials that can be obtained, observing only that all doubtful Articles may remain under the Head of un-adjusted or Suspence Accounts until we shall be enabled to judge how they may be further disposed of To which End your Accountant must transmit to us with the adjusted Books of that Factory a Separate Report on the State of the several Articles in suspence and the best Explanation in his Power of the Circumstances attending them.

97. We have received with satisfaction the Books of your Military Paymaster from July to December 1765 and are well pleased to find that Mr. Lambert, by his Care and Assiduity in bringing up those Books has thus effac'd any unfavorable Impression which his former Conduct might have occasioned.

98. As the Books of this Department were in future to be conducted on a New Plan we are greatly disappointed in not having a sett of them And the more so as we are Solicitous to see how far the Military Paymaster General has pursued the method proposed by himself and adopted by the Committee of Inspection in May 1766 by which we hop'd to see these Books so clear and explicit as to answer every enquiry we might have occasion to make.

99 Whatever Interruptions might at first have prevented the Military Paymaster General from adjusting and forwarding to us his Books in due time, The Total Omission of his Disbursements for your General Books ending April 1767 is a Circumstance of so disagreeable a Nature that we hope we shall not again have occasion to complain of a like Deficiency but that effectual Care will be taken in future that the several Paymasters transmit their Accounts to the Military Paymaster General so that his Books may be adjusted in time that his Disbursements may not only be included in your General Charges but that the same may be regularly transmitted to us

100 As you have of late omitted to send us the Books of your General Storekeeper We are necessitated to repeat Our former Orders that you do not fail to transmit regularly every year the Books of your several Offices and not only so but such as may have been omitted for the preceeding years as is the Case with your General Storekeeper must be sent for the whole period, that we may be furnished with a Compleat Series of your Subsidiary as well as General Books

101 We find by the Buxey's Accounts, that your Hospital Expences are inserted and lost under the Head of Charges General— This we by no means approve for this Charge should stand under a distinct head as usual without wh[ic]h this Expence which properly belongs to the Military must in our Statements remain under Civil Charges This must therefore be separated and all expences attending the Hospital be carried to it which is not the case at present for the Article of Madeira Wine expended therein is wrote off to Profit and Loss instead of being placed as a Charge under this Head

102 By your Account of Profit & Loss We find that upwards of Eight Thousand Current Rupees for Plate and Eighteen Thousand for House Necessaries are at once wrote off for Deficiencies in those Articles, so extraordinary a Loss discovered on the Buxey's Survey cannot but surprize us and gives an unpleasing Evidence of Remissness and want of Care in the Person who had the Charge thereof—And as we observe that in the year 1767 upwards of Thirty Thousand Current Rupees was expended in Plate, it is become highly expedient for you to Consider of some Means for the safer Custody of so great a Quantity as you are now possessed of

103 In your Profit and Loss account we observe that several Heads such as Mint, Madeira Wine, Salt Petre &c<sup>a</sup> are carried both to its Debit and Credit whereby the Nett Loss or Gain does not appear at one view This Irregularity we therefore point out to your Sub Accountant who in future will adjust such heads and

write off to Profit and Loss the Balance only of the respective Articles.

104. By your Proceedings the 3rd August 1767 We find that Disputes had arisen with respect to the Molungees Salt Balances, These, we are sensible, you are best able to adjust and doubt not but that your decision has been guided by the strictest Justice.

105. We must however complain of the Negligence which appears in the omitting to enter after the Consultation of that day the several Accounts mentioned in Mr. Sumner's Minute as had been ordered by your Board without which Accounts we cou'd not judge of this matter had the same been referr'd to us.

106. As Instances of such Omissions are frequently found on your Consultations, We expect and require that greater attention be paid in future to the Copies of your Proceedings and that the same do always pass a careful examination, This, indeed, we have before required but any further Omissions of this kind will draw from us a severe Reprehension.

107. The Increase of Customs at your Presidency is the more agreeable to us as we cannot but infer that this must be owing to an Extension of Trade as well as the Attention of our Servants to the Company's Interest in an Article of Revenues which can be liable to no Objection. And it is with pleasure also we observe, by the Proceedings of the Committee of Inspection that you are desirous of reducing all un-necessary Charges in the Collection of it.

108. The difference that appears is in the Extra Expences of the Third Brigade and the Sum stipulated to be paid on that account by the King and Soujah Dowlah is so considerable that we hope you have obtain'd a Reimbursement of the Exceedings and an Agreement for discharging in future the Extra Monthly Expences of that Brigade or of any Detachments as may be employ'd at their request agreeable to the directions We find you have given for that purpose.

109. In our Letter of 4th March 1767 We advis'd you that we had paid here the sum of Two Hundred Pounds Sterling for Costs incurr'd in England upon the Appeal of Maria De Lor—and in your Letter dated 14th September 1767 you informed us that Mr. Archibald Keir Executor to her Estate had given it as his Opinion that there must be some mistake in this matter alledging that no Person in England was properly authoris'd to receive the Money—In answer to which we are now to acquaint you that the aforesaid Sum of Two hundred Pounds was paid here to Mr. Kay Mrs. De Lor's Solicitor who had a right to receive these Costs of course merely as being Solicitor and without any further Power.

*Supplement*

110 Mr John Sampson who went to Bengal in 1767, with the Company's License to provide for himself in the Seafaring way, having been recommended to us as a fit Person to succeed as Deputy Master Attendant at your Presidency, We direct that he be appointed to that Post upon the first Vacancy that shall happen after the receipt of these Advices, and when the Orders you are at present under in regard to the Succession to that Office shall have been fulfilled

111 In our General Letter of the 11th November last you are acquainted with our design of opening a New branch of Commerce with the Island of Balambangan and that we had directed a Cruizer to proceed from Bombay in order to take Possession thereof, but as this Scheme requires a more mature deliberation than We are at present able to give it, We have directed the Presidency of Madras as we hereby do you that if a Country Ship should sail for that part, you must agree with the Captain to touch at Balambangan to learn if any Person is keeping Possession thereof on Behalf of the Company, and if there is We would have such Person continue so to do till further Orders

112 We have considered the Subject of your Litigations with Mr Bolts respecting the Company's Demand on him for Grain delivered at Benaris, and direct that you receive of his Attorneys in Bengal the Balance of his Account with us being C Rs 3175 7 [ ] which it appears from the Proceedings he once tendered & was refused, and his Soliciter here informs us he is still ready to pay on your Demand—Your Proceedings in this Affair having been laid before the Company's Counsel, he is of Opinion that 'When a Cause is heard upon Bill and Answer without any Replication, the Answer must be admitted to be true, because without a Replication no Evidence can be brought by the Defendant to prove the truth of any of the Facts contained in such Answer—That this is a fixed Rule and that it cannot be otherwise is so apparent to common Sense that he is convinced neither the Mayors' Court or the Governor and Council have the least doubt of it, they well know a Party can't be deprived of his Witnesses by the means of his Antagonist in the Suit and then lose his Cause for want of their testimony—If Mr Bolts has made a larger demand upon the Company or given them Credit for less than he ought in this Cause there is no remedy, The Company's Agents are only to Blame, by this their manner of Conducting it And he is clearly of Opinion that under every Circumstance of this Case the Judgment in favor of the Company is not to be supported It is neither advisable or Prudent for the Company to bring this Appeal before the Lords of the Council If they should he is

Convinced that the Appellant will prevail and be decreed the whole of his demand."

113. In our Advices of 20th Novemr. 1767 you were fully informed of an Agreement entered into for two years between the Publick and the Company with respect to a participation of the Advantages arising from the Company's late Acquisitions and Revenues—in consequence of which you were likewise appriz'd of the necessity of your transmitting to Us, Annually, distinct and particular States of your Revenues, And also of the Expences incurr'd at your Presidency and Subordinates for the same Period, which must be carried as near as possible to the time of your Dispatches.

114. We have now to inform you that a New Agreement for a longer Term is at present in Agitation, And although it has not received the Sanction of Parliament, Yet as a Bill is ordered to be brought in and the same may soon be made an Act of the Legislature We take this opportunity to advise you of the Purport of the Expected Agreement—This the Propositions on the part of the Company as the Basis thereof (and which come a Number in the Packet) will explain as fully as it is in Our Power to do until we shall be enabled to send you the express Terms of an Act of Parliament.

115. By the 3d Article of the Propositions you will observe that in case we should by any Event be under the necessity of reducing the Dividends on our Stock the Public is in like manner to abate of their Proportion—As in such Case the Public will undoubtedly require to be informed of the State of the Receipts at our several Presidencies and in what manner the Sums received have been applyed you must not fail to be very full and explicit in every particular relative to your Transactions, distinguishing what may have been collected on Account of your several Revenues and what the amount of our Exports sold within the year—Against these you will place all the Expences of your Presidency and Subordinates as also the amount of your Investment, Remittances to other Settlements and every disbursement not included in your General Charges.

116. Although we have mentioned such Particulars as are indispensably necessary for us to receive We must still rely on your Judgment to supply us with what may be further wanting to shew the exact State of our Affairs under your Administration And we trust that you will transmit to us annually such separate Accounts and Statements as may answer every purpose with respect to Public enquiry.

117. We have therefore only to remind you that these several

states are to be forwarded in Triplicate by your early Ships of each Season, And that the same be authenticated by Our President and Council in due Form.

118. In the 90th Paragraph of our Advices of the 11th November last We expressed Our displeasure at the irregularity committed in the granting Dustucks to Free Merchants and others—upon a further examination into the Register of Dustucks we perceive the Abuses committed herein are got to that height, that it is become necessary to revoke all particular Indulgencies formerly granted; and we do strictly forbid our President ever to grant a Dustuck for any Goods or Merchandize to or from the Inland Places to any but the Company's Covenantant Servants above the Rank of Writers, and such of the Writers who have attained the Age of 21 Years.

119. Numberless Applications having for some years past been made to us for remitting home the Estates of sundry deceased Persons remaining at your Presidency, but being uninformed as to the Amount thereof we direct you to send us an Account of what Sums remain either in our Cash or in Private hands belonging to the Estates of all deceased Persons, specifying the Times when they Died and all such other Particulars regarding the same as may best enable us to give them such relief as shall be in Our Power, and suitable to the Merits of their several Cases.

120. The Friends of Edwards Winship a Private Soldier at your Presidency, having represented it is of great Consequence to be certified whether he is living or Dead, and as it is not in our Power to give them any satisfaction herein, by reason of your Neglect to send us any Muster Rolls for some years past, you are therefore hereby directed to cause the most diligent search to be made after him and transmit us by the return of these Ships the best and most authentic Intelligence you can obtain thereupon—We have received the following Information, which may assist your Enquiries in regard to him. In a Letter from him dated 7th February 1764 he advises, that "he went from Madras to Bengal where he was ordered up the Country on the War against Cossim Aly Cawn, and was a Private Soldier in Captain Scotlands Company, and that Cossim had retired into Lucknow."

121. We have drawn upon you by these Ships the under-mentioned Setts of Bills of Exchange at Two Shillings the Rupee and Thirty days sight Vizt.

One Sett for Current Rupees Five hundred payable to Mr. Thomas Martin for Pounds Sterling Fifty received of Mr. S. M. Leake Junr. dated the 6th February 1769 . . . .	} Rup. 500	£50





Our President and Council  
of Bombay

1 Having determined from many weighty motives to form a Settlement on the Island of Balamangani situated off the North East End of the Island of Borneo We give you this Special Notice thereof by Express Overland and positively enjoin you to prepare with all Expedition one of your Armed Vessels to be despatched as soon as possible to take possession of the said Island in the Name of the King of Great Britain and of the East India Company by virtue of a Grant from the Sultan of Aceh to the Company in 1804 copy of which we now transmit

2 We do not by this Consequence enter upon the particular measures to be taken for effecting this expedition but shall in the course of the soon ensuing ourselves more at large in the mean time the utmost dispatch is to be used in pursuit thereof and profound secrecy observed that no other power may penetrate or traverse the Design

3 The Vessel to be employed thereon must be one of our own from 150 to 200 Tons with her full Complement of Men and as she is designed to remain there till relieved you must send as much provision as possible and it will be right to add a smaller one by way of Tender and for other necessary services or to be despatched with the Advice to our Settlements that the importance of the Service shall require

h. v

One Sett for Current Rupees Two Thousand payable to Mr. Alexander Van Rixtel for Pounds Sterling Two hundred rec'd of Mr. John Van Rixtel dated 6th Febry. 1769 .	} Ruprs. 2000	£200
One Sett for Current Rupees four Thousand Seven hundred payable to Messrs. William Majendie and Charles Purling for Pounds Sterling Four hundred and seventy rec'd of John Purling Esqr. dated 16th March 1769 .		
	4700	470
	<hr/>	
	C Rs. 7200	£720

We are  
Your loving Friends

Hy. Crabb Boulton/G. Colebroke/J. Purling/Fredk. Pigou/  
W. Cruttenden/Wm. James/Daniel Wier/Edwd. Wheler/  
J. Hurlock/P. Pardoe/Charles Chambers/Ja: Cockburn/  
Jn. Woodhouse/Ben. Booth/J. Creswicke/Peter DuCane  
Junr./William Snell/John Harrison/Luke Scrafton/Rob.  
Jones.

London 17th March 1769.

*Since signing the above the Court of Directors have granted Bills of Exchange for Rupees One Thousand payable to Mr. Thomas Chichley Plowden for Pounds Sterling One hundred rece'd of himself, dated this 20th March 1769 which is under their special Order Attested by.*

C. Michell  
Secry.

*Enclosure 1*

## COURTS' LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF BOMBAY

*(4 November 1768)*

1. Having determined from many weighty motives to form a Settlement on the Island of Balambangan situated off the North East End of the Island Borneo, We give you This Special Notice thereof, by Express Overland, and positively enjoin you to prepare with all Expedition one of your Armed Vessels, to be dispatched as soon as possible, to take possession of the said Island in the Name

of the King of Great Britain and of the East India Company, by virtue of a Grant from the Sultan of Xolo<sup>s</sup> to the Company in 1764 Copy of which we now transmit.

2. We do not by this Conveyance enter upon the particular measures to be taken for effecting this expedition, but shall in the course of the Season explain ourselves more at large, in the mean time the utmost dispatch is to be used in pursuit thereof, and profound Secrecy observed, that no other power may penetrate or traverse the Design.

3. The Vessel to be employed thereon, must be one of our own from 150 to 200 Tons with her full Compliment of Men and as she is designed to remain there till relieved you must send as much provision as possible, and it will be right to add a smaller one by way of Tender and for other necessary Services, or to be dispatched with the Advices to Our Settlements that the importance of the Service shall require.

4. As the Success of this Expedition will greatly depend on the Person whom you shall appoint to the conduct thereof Let such an Officer of whose Spirit, temper Prudence and Capacity, you have gained good experience be appointed thereto, and it is strongly recommended to you to conduct the undertaking with all the frugality, that the nature of it will allow, our intention being, till we have formed a proper plan here, only to keep possession of the Island.

5. No Umbrage must be given to the Powers in the Neighbourhood of the said Island, and we would have endeavours used to obtain a Confirmation of the Cession thereof in the most ample and authentick manner.

6. These Directions are given on the Supposition that the Persons, who shall be sent to take Possession of the said Island will find no European Nation settled there, but in case of Obstructions to their operations from any Europeans, they must absolutely avoid being the Aggressors, and if their Opponents shall prove so powerful as to render the taking and maintaining the possession of the objects of the Expedition ineffectual, all Circumstances must at large and faithfully be stated and Protests accordingly made in sufficient Damages to be transmitted to us that we may obtain reparation for the same.

7. If preoccupancy by Europeans should have taken place at Balambangan, the Persons employed in the Expedition must endeavour to acquire possession of some other proper place included

in the Grant independent of and where no Europeans have gained a prior right or residence.

8. Give us the earliest Intelligence of your Success by an Overland Packet in Cypher or the first Ship you can possibly load and dispatch home, that we may give the necessary directions on the occasion.

9. If the measures for taking possession of the Island shall not be attended with Success, and the Persons employed shall be obliged to desist from the pursuit of the Expedition, and to return, they must in that case touch at Fort St. George to give a full Account of all Circumstances relating to it before they proceed to Bombay.

We are

Your loving Friends,

Hy. Crabb Boulton/G. Colebrooke/J. Hurlock/Wm. Snell  
John Harrison/Rob. Jones/Pere Cust/J. Creswicke/J.  
Pardoé/Peter DuCane Junr./Charles Chambers/Ja: Cock-  
burn/J. Purling/Wm. James/Daniel Wier/J. Woodhouse.

London 4th November 1768.

*Enclosure 2*

**LETTER FROM MR. JOHN MURRAY TO MR. ROBERT  
JAMES AND MR. P. MICHELL'S REPLY THERE TO**

Constantinople, 16th July 1768.

Sir,

I desire, that you would acquaint the Board of Directors, that Mr. Harry Verelst, Governor of Bengal, has wrote to me to acquaint me, that the Trade to Mocha, Judda, and Bassorah has suffered much for these two years past, by the Traders in those Places having endeavoured to establish a Credit of one, or two years on all their Purchases, in lieu of a long adopted beneficial Custom of selling Goods for ready Money, or on such short Credit, as the Season would admit for the return of each Vessel, and every Merchant in those parts received his Sales within the year. This, he says, exposes the property of His Majesty's Subjects on a very precarious Issue, from the unsettled State of the Government of those Places, besides a certain Loss of Interest and Insurances, which the Gains on the Trade of those Parts will not allow, but at the Ruin

of every future Merchant, who may venture to trade thither upon those Terms. He desires, that I would procure Orders from the Porte to their Governors of those Places to encourage and support the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects on the same Footing, as it has hitherto been carried on. By obtaining these orders he says, I shall not only render a very essential Service to our Countrymen, trading thither, but preserve those Channels for the importation of Bullion, both Gold and Silver, into those Provinces, by which means alone the East India Company's Affairs can be effectually supported, he having experienced the Disappointments of two years Returns from thence, and very severely felt its Effects. You will be pleased to acquaint the Directors that I immediately presented a very strong Memorial to the Porte to which I daily expect an Answer, but as Mocha is not in the Sultans Dominions, I shall endeavour to procure a Letter from the Grand Vizir to the King of that Country.

I am with great Regard,

Sir

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

John Murray.

*Enclosure 3*

FROM MR. P. MICHELL TO MR. ROBERT JAMES

*(23 September 1678)*

Sir,

Your Letter of the 16th July last to Mr. James has been received and read to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, advising you had presented a very strong Memorial to the Porte, and your intention to endeavor to procure a Letter from the Grand Vizir to the King of the Country wherein Mocha is situate, in order to remove the inconveniencies and disappointments which the Traders from Bengal to the Ports of Mocha Judda and Bussora had suffered for two years past, whereby essential Service would be rendered to the said Traders and those Channels preserved for the importation of Bullion both Gold and Silver into the Bengal Provinces as the only means for the effectual support of the Company's Affairs, and I have the Court's Commands to acquaint you Sir that altho' they have hitherto received no information from their Servants in Bengal on this Subject, yet they are highly sensible of your attention to the interest of those Traders, and very desirous that the measures you have taken and are pursuing for the encouragement

and support of the Private Trade of His Majesty's Subjects to the said Ports, on the same footing as it hath formerly been carried on may prove successful and equal to the importance of the Object and the Court desire you will favor them with an account of your Negotiations with the Porte thereon from time to time.

I am very respectfully  
Sir

Your most Obedient and  
most Humble Servant

P. Michell  
Secry.

East India House London  
the 23rd September 1768.

His Excellency John Murray Esqr. His Britannic  
Majesty's Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte.

*Enclosure 4*

**COPY OF SUNDRY PAPERS AS TO THE SPANIARDS NOT  
HAVING THE RIGHT OF NAVIGATION TO THE EAST  
INDIES BY THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE**

White Hall 10th March 1768.

Sir

I have the Earl of Shelburnes Directions to inclose to you, an Extract of a Letter He has received from Sir James Gray, in order that you may lay the same before the Directors of the Honorable East India Company, for their Opinion on the Subject of it.

I am  
Sir

Your most Obedient  
humble Servant  
Richard Sutton

Peter Michell Esqre.

*Extract of a Letter from Sir James Gray to the Earl of Shelburne,  
Madrid, 18th February 1768*

Mr. Doublet, the Dutch Minister, acquaints me, he has lately received Letters from the Greffier, informing him, that their East India Company had complained of the Spaniards in sending the Ship called, *El buen Consejo* to the East Indies by the Way of the Cape of Good Hope, as being prejudicial to their Interests and

on foot by the Court of Spain, (a Copy whereof is herewith transmitted) the Gentlemen now in the Direction of the East India Company's Affairs, beg leave to assure the Kings Ministers they now most heartily concur in, and firmly relying on His Majesty's most gracious and constant attention to the Commercial Interests of his Subjects, they earnestly entreat the Earl of Shelburne, that he will be pleased to lay their Sentiments and Apprehensions upon this Subject, before His Majesty whose Royal Protection they have ever enjoyed, and are well assured they shall continue so to do, in the exercise and maintenance of such Rights and Privileges of Trade, as they shall be found to be entitled to pursuant to the most solemn engagements subsisting between the Crowns of Great Britain and Spain

I am

• Sir

Your most Obedient  
humble Servant

Signed/ P Michell

Secry

East India House,  
the 21st June 1768

# 17

## LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1769

*Objects to an article of the instructions to the deputies sent to Shujaud Daula as also to an application to the Mughal Emperor for a blank Farman—letters to country powers to be written by the President—further engagements with country powers to be avoided—abandonment of gold currency experiment approved*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 The accidental detention of the Fox at Plymouth gives us an opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your Letters by the Valentine, from the President and Council dated the 13th September 1768, from the Select Committee the same day and from President Verelst the 25th of that Month

2 We reserve ourselves for a fuller discussion of these Advices by a Vessel to be dispatched express but we cannot defer taking notice of some circumstances which seem to affect the Company's Interests very nearly

3 We have constantly enjoined you to avoid every measure

that might lead you into further connections, and have recommended to you to use your utmost endeavors to keep Peace in Bengal and with the neighbouring Powers, and you on your part have not been wanting in assurances of your resolution to conform to these our wishes.

4. Yet in the very Instructions which you have given to the Deputies sent up to Shuja Dowla with professions of Friendship, you have inserted an Article which will not only give fresh cause of Jealousy to Shuja Dowla, but engage you likewise in disputes with other Powers still more distant.

5. We mean the Article whereby they are directed to apply to the King for a Grant of two or three Circars, which belonged you say, original to the Eliabad Province, but were unlawfully possessed some time since by the Hindooput Rajah.

6. Is it our business to enquire into the Rights of the Hindooput Rajah and the usurpations he may have made upon others? and supposing the fact to be proved, does such an injustice on his part give us any claim to the disputed districts?

7. We are surprized that the absurdity of such pretensions did not strike you, and yet you go still further, for without any enquiry, without even knowing the extent of the Lands whether two Circars or three, you apply to the King for a Grant, for no other reason than that it will be convenient to furnish you with Money for paying the Troops at Eliabad.

8. When we consider the unavoidable consequences of such a measure, we cannot but regard it as an effectual bar against the reconciliation with Suja Dowla, which is the declared object of the Deputation.—In the first place, if the Districts in question belong to the Eliabad Province they are a part of Shuja Dowla's undoubted Inheritance, and supposing him to wave (*sic*) his right, you cannot send a Man nor a Gun for the defence of these new Acquisitions without passing through his Country, which will be a perpetual Source of dispute and complaint.

9. Nor does the mischief stop here the Hindooput Rajah who by all accounts is rich will naturally endeavor to form alliances to defend himself against this unexpected attack of the English then you will say your honor is engaged, and the Army is to be led against other Powers still more distant.

10. You say nothing in your Letters of this very essential Article of your Instructions to the Deputies.—We hope to see better reasons given in your next Advices in support of this measure, but no reasons can induce us to keep a district so acquired, and



therefore if you have taken possession, we positively direct that our Troops be withdrawn and all our pretensions given up

11 There is another part of your conduct which upon the same principles we disapprove equally, we mean your application to the King for a blank Firmaun for the Soubahdarry of the Decan to be filled up at your pleasure, or at the pleasure of the President and Council of Madras

12 When we consider that the Soubahdarry of the Decan is by the Constitution of the Empire as well as in extent of Command and Authority the greatest trust the King can confer, when we consider our particular situation with the King that he is under our immediate Protection, and how much our honor is concerned in preserving to him all the respect possible we cannot but express our strongest disapprobation of a measure which must tend to bring upon him the contempt of his own Subjects and with respect to Nizam Ally to whom this Transaction cannot be a secret it will be such a root of Jealousy and Animosity as cannot easily be removed

13 We conclude that this Firmaun remain in your hands and we direct that you return it to the King and acquaint him that we will not suffer our Servants to be guilty of such an abuse of the confidence he is pleased to repose in us

14 These Facts so strongly contradict all the Professions of moderation with which your Letters to Shuja Dowla and others are filled that we dread a total loss of all our Credit in the Country, and that we shall see new Wars upon our hands in every quarter of India

15 As Mr Verelst writes that Shuja Dowla had offered to come in Person to Bengal to remove the Jealousies which had taken place we hope to hear that you have acquiesced in this proposal, as the most likely means of producing the wished for reconciliation, but if this offer has been refused, and the Deputies have proceeded to Eliabid, we much fear it will end in a War, for every part of their Commission carries strong marks to impress Fears and Suspicions upon the mind of Shuja Dowla, besides those which we have already mentioned we observe that the Letters they are to deliver to him are not written in the usual Form by the President only but in the name of the whole Committee, which will be regarded as an alarming innovation pretending some extraordinary design— This practice has been repeatedly condemned and forbid, and you are therefore inexcusable in admitting it, and particularly upon so critical an occasion

16 In this doubtful situation we can only express our hopes

that the Peace of the Country has been preserved and confidence restored; we repeat that it is our fixed Resolution to confine our views to the security and tranquillity of Bengal, to apply ourselves to the good management of what we possess there to the increase of our Commerce, and the ease and happiness of the People, to avoid as much as possible all further engagements with the Country Powers, but faithfully to perform those which we already lie under.

17. The mischievous consequences of your project of a Gold Currency to be established upon an arbitrary valuation have proved to be such as we have foretold by our former Letters, and we are glad to find that you opened the Treasury to receive them back for a course of fifteen days, notwithstanding the great loss which has thereby fallen upon the Company, we see with concern the distress and injury which the trading part of the Country have suffered by this ill founded expedient.

18. You are to consider Silver as the only Measure of Commerce in Bengal, Gold though it may be coined, must not have any fixed value set upon it, but must be always considered as Bullion and left to find its own value in the Market.

19. We see in so strong a light the dangerous consequences of making any alteration in the standard of the Coin of the Country, that we do most positively direct you do not (without our previous and express Orders) under any pretence whatsoever presume to make any alteration in the Original and established Standard for weight and fineness of the Gold Mohurs and Silver Rupees which may from time to time be coined in our Mint at Calcutta, and whoever shall be guilty of a breach of this Order will incur an immediate dismissal from our Service.

20. That we may be satisfied you keep up to the Standard the Assay Master is every three Months to take out of your Mint, musters of the different Species of new Coinage of which he is to make an Assay and report the same to you, which report is to be entered on Consultation for our observation, you are likewise strictly to conform to our Orders in the 62nd Paragraph of our Letter of the 11 November last for taking out Musters of Coinage from your Mint and sending them annually to us.

21. The separation of the Offices of Mint and Assay Master is very proper, being designed as checks upon each other, you must keep them distinct in future and never suffer both to be held by any one Person.

22. Being desirous of giving Mr. Lionel Darell all the encouragement due to the importance of the Office of Sub Accountant to

which we appointed him, you are to make him such Allowance for House Rent as may be suitable to that Station.

We are

Your loving Friends,

G. Colebrooke/P. Cust/Hy. Crabb Boulton/John Harrison/  
Fredk. Pigou/John Manship/John Robert/George Demp-  
ster/Robt. Gregory/John Motteux/Wm. James/William  
Snell/Wm. Geo. Freeman/Chas. Boddam/Henry Fletcher/  
George Cuming/L. Sullivan/Henry Vansittart/Ben Booth/  
J. Purling.

London 11th May 1769.

18

## LETTER DATED 30 JUNE 1769

*Principles of foreign policy affirmed—Councils of Revenue to be formed for the management of the Diwani revenues at Murshidabad and at Patna—constitution and functions explained—an extraordinary Commission of three members to proceed to India to carry out Court's orders—Bolts to be given facilities for recovery of his fortunes—new orders concerning remittances of the Company's servants—in case of extraordinary scarcity of silver remittances to China to be withheld.*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote you a Short Letter the 11th of last Month (a Duplicate whereof is enclosed herewith) for the purpose chiefly of acquainting you, that it is not our wish to acquire further Possessions but to advert to the good management of those which we have; and we pointed out your Application to the King for a Grant of the Hindooput Districts & for a Blank Firmaun for the Decan, as striking Instances of a Spirit subsisting in your Councils directly contrary to these our Sentiments.

2. To prevent as much as in us lies the bad consequences which must ensue from a continuation of such measures, We shall now give you our Instructions more at large and that no time may be lost in Conveying these Instructions to your Hands, We have brought the Snow Lapwing and Dispatch her Express for Bengal

to continue there, to follow the Orders of the Commissioners hereafter mentioned.

3. In several of our Letters, since we have been engaged as Principals in the Politicks of India, and particularly during the last two or three Years we have given it as our Opinion, That the most prudent system we could pursue and the most likely to be attended with a permanent Security to our Possessions would be to incline to those few Chiefs of Indostan who yet preserve an Independence of the Moratta Power and are in a Condition to struggle with them, for so long as they are able to keep that struggle, the acquisitions of the Company will run the less risk of Disturbance.

4. The Rohillahs, the Jauts, the Nabob of the Decan, the Nabob of Oud and the Mysore Chief have each in their turn kept the Marattas in Action, and we wish them still to be able to do it, it is therefore with great concern we see the War continuing with Hyder Naique and a probability of a Rupture with Sujah Dowla and Nizam Ally, in such Wars we have every thing to lose and nothing to gain, for supposing our Operations be attended with the utmost success and our Enemies reduced to our Mercy, we can only wish to see them restored to the Condition from which they set out, that is to such a degree of Force and Independence as may enable them still to Keep up the Contest with the Morattas and with each other, it would give us therefore the greatest Satisfaction to hear that matters are accomodated both at Bengal & on the Coast and in case such a happy event shall have taken place you will do your utmost to preserve the Tranquillity.

5. We esteem ourselves bound by Treaty to protect the King's Person & to secure to him the Possession of the Korah & Iliabad Districts. When we wrote the 11th November 1768 We apprehended the consequences of keeping the Brigade at Illabad wou'd be creating in Sujah Dowla a Jealousy that would involve us in fresh Troubles, having at that time no cause to esteem him an Enemy, but impressed as you were with the opinion of his hostile Intentions & Growing Strength, at the time of the Dispatch of the Valentine, we shall not blame your Caution for deferring the Execution of our Orders for its removal, nor shall we at this time attempt to give positive Directions for your Conduct, which in such critical Cases ought seldom to be done, and in which the Situation of Affairs may be varied by unforeseen Events at the very Moment we are Writing, but having given you with as much Precision as possible a general view of the System by which we wish to see our Affairs regulated. We must leave it to you to improve to the utmost of your Power every opportunity of drawing towards that point, and whenever you think yourselves obliged for our Security upon emergent occasions, to

adopt measures of a contrary tendency, you are to give us very full reasons for such a deviation & endeavor to return to the Path we have marked out as soon as Circumstances will admit

6 Upon these reasons we shall judge whether you merit praise or Censure, and if you had observed this course in the Letter of your Select Committee by the Valentine we should have had no cause of Displeasure, but to say you are *Astonished* at our Orders is as useless as unbecoming

7 The only Article of our present Engagements that seems to throw a difficulty in the way of the limited plan which we wish to establish is the obligation beforementioned with respect to the King's Person, and the Districts assigned him out of Sujah Dowlah's Country. If you have succeeded in restoring Confidence between the King and Sujah Dowlah which we sincerely hope, this difficulty may be easily removed for in such case it is probable that the King, seeing our positive determination not to take any part in the prosecution of his Projects towards Delhi, may trust to Sujah Dowlah for that Service, the care and Management of the Korah & Iliabad Districts will then naturally belong to Sujah Dowlah or some equivalent will be settled between themselves in lieu of that Revenue, which done, we hope there can be no occasion for any part of our Forces at Iliabad, and we shall be subject to no further Claim or Requisition from the King excepting for the stipulated Tribute for Bengal, which you are to pay to his Agent or remit to him in such manner as he may direct

8 Should the event of your Deputation to Sujah Dowlah have proved contrary to our Wishes, & been productive of a War, We have very little doubt of the success of our Troops, but having no point to gain, nor Ambition to satisfy beyond the bounds of the Bahar Province, we hope Peace was soon restored and that you obtained a reimbursement of your Expences and avoided all Engagements of such a sort as may have a tendency to embroil you again

9 We find by your Advices by the Kent & Verelst that Sujah Dowlah's offer of coming to Calcutta had been no further attended to, and that Mr Cartier, General Smith and Mr Russell had proceeded upon their Deputation, no observation of ours upon this measure can alter the consequences which, whether they are good or bad, have been long since passed, but as upon the Perusal of your Letters, proceedings and Country Correspondence, we do not see sufficient reasons to justify some parts of the Instructions given to those Gentlemen we shall point out to you where in our Judgement does not coincide with yours

10. The Number of Sujah Dowlah's Forces not being limited by any Treaty, your demand upon that Subject can only be justified upon the Principle of Self-defence, where considerations of Justice must sometimes give place to necessity, but we do not see in the present instance any such danger impending, Col. Barker in his Letter of the 23rd March 1768 gives an opinion that a Single Brigade wou'd be an overmatch for all Sujah Dowlah's Army, this opinion stands uncontroverted and indeed it is founded upon the uniform experience of our former Success, We do not therefore see the necessity of coming to a Resolution so very disgusting and humiliating without some overt Act committed on his part manifestly shewing his Hostile intentions against us, whenever that happened you were able enough to reduce him and we could not have been charged with being the Aggressors, Whereas if a War should break out in consequence of this and other aggravating Circumstances attending the Deputation, the breach of Friendship will be imputed to the Company.

11. You have offered no further Reasons for your Request to the King for the grant of the Hindooput Country, We continue therefore to regard it as an Act of Notorious Injustice and we repeat the orders on this Subject contained in our Letter of the 11th of last Month.

12. You have not sent us P the Kent & Verelst the Continuation of your Copy Book of Country correspondence and that which came by the Valentine is very defective, Letters both sent and received upon the most important Subjects even those from the King are abridged so as to be scarce intelligible, and many we apprehend are totally omitted, for we observe great breaks in the Course of the Correspondence; for the future let all Letters be Entered at length and the Copies sent regularly by every Ship as they are material for our Information with respect to your Conduct towards the Country Powers, and this being immediately the Province of the President, We expect he will make it his particular care punctually to put this order into Execution.

13. We have attended to the several Informations and Proceedings on the Subject of the Revenues and from the result of our Observations we see reasons to Flatter ourselves that with care and Industry great Improvements may be made in the Duannee Collections, We find the Revenues of the Calcutta Lands as well as of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong have been considerably Augmented. And this encrease gives us a sensible Pleasure, because we perceive the Number of Inhabitants have encreased at the same time, which we regard as a Proof that they have found in those Provinces a better Security of their Property and relief from oppres-

sions, And it is with particular satisfaction We can attribute Advantages to their being more immediately under the Com management and under the Constant and Minute Direction of Covenanted Servants the like abuses which have been Corrected in these Districts are still severely felt thro' all the Provinces of Bengal and Bahar were the numerous Tribes of Fougedars, Aumils, Sirdars &c. practice all the various modes of Oppression which have been in use so long as the Moorish Government has Subsisted; to remove Abuses of so long a Growth will require much time and In addition and above all a Patient and moderate exertion of the Powers Invested in us by the Grant of the Dewannee, for we do not mean to effect a violent and sudden reform to change the Constitution, but to remove the evil by degrees, by reducing that immense number of Idle Sycophants who for their own emolument and that of their Principals are placed between the Tenants and public Treasures of which every one must get his share of Plunder, the whole of which must amount to a most enormous Sum, among the various Informations we have received on this Subject, we have particularly attended to Mr. Sykes's Letter relating to Denagapore entered in the Select Committee's Proceedings of the 10th Febr'y. 1768 this Letter exhibits at one view a very ample description of the Abuses we are speaking of and which we Wish to eradicate.

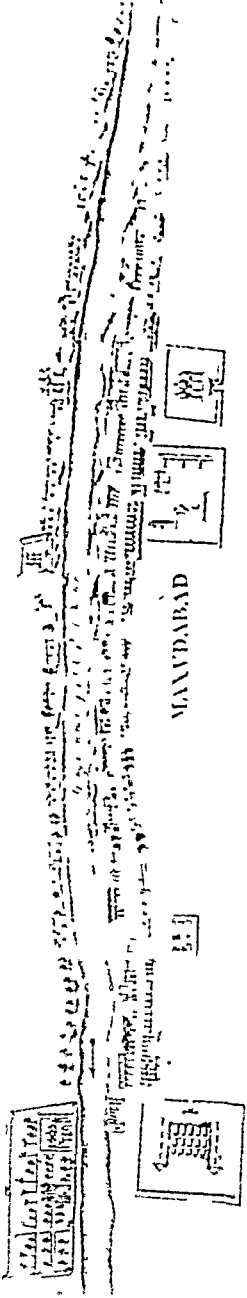
14. Our intention is to proceed in this Work without taking off from any of those Profits and Emoluments which have usually accrued to the Zemindars who have inherited Lands from their Ancestors, much less to add any thing to the Rents to be Collected from the Tenants, on the contrary we mean to better the condition both of the one and the other, by relieving them from the oppressions which they now labour under.

15. But a Plan of reformation of so extensive a nature, cannot be effected by one Man, it must be the constant attention of several and for this purpose we have Resolved to establish a Committee of some of our ablest Servants for the management of the Dewannee Revenues at Muxadavad for the Bengal Province, and at Patna for that of Bahar.

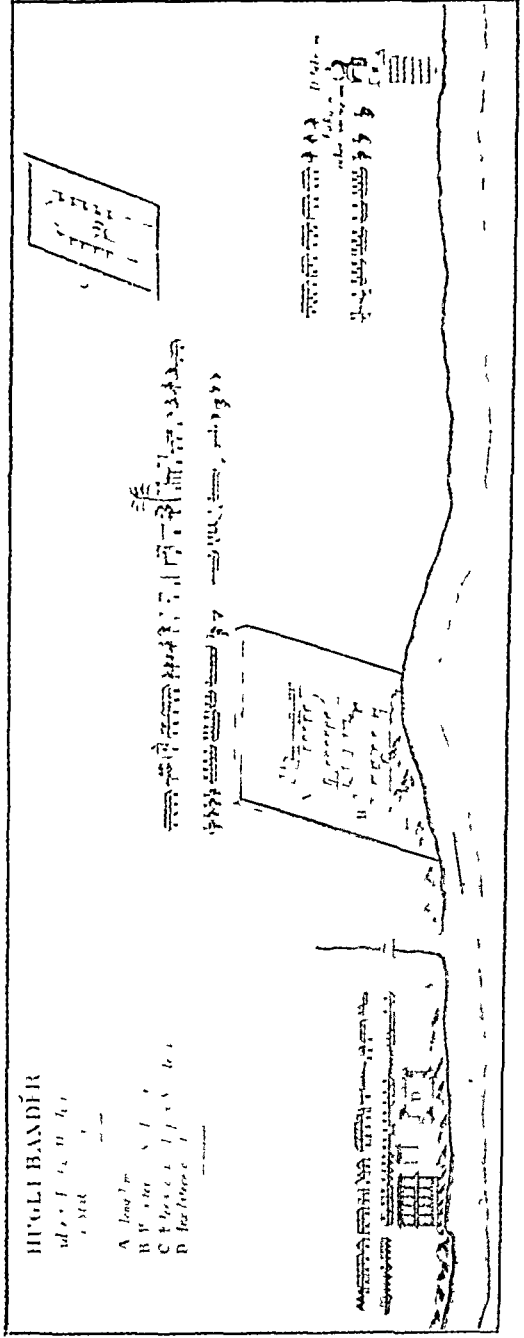
16. The Gentlemen to be so appointed shall be comptrolleurs for the management of the Dewannee Revenues under your Direction and they are to have so many other of our Junior Covenanted Servants for Assistants as from time to time may be found necessary to be sent into the several provinces to correct abuses and maintain the intended Reformation.

17. The Object of this Council must be first to inform themselves of the real state of the Collections in every part, that

# MAHINAGAR



# Murshidabad



# Hugli Bander





say, what Rents are at this time actually paid by the Tenants, and what was paid formerly what is the nature of the Cultivation and what the Chief Produce of each District & whether in that respect there seems a prospect of Improvement.—They are next to inform themselves of the amount of the Charges of Collection for some Years past in as particular a manner as possible & you are then to judge how many of the Amils & other Officers, among whom those immense Sums have been divided, may be spared. This saving as far as it can reasonably be carried at the same time that it will be a Profit to the Company in point of Revenue, will likewise be a relief to the Tenant for it cannot be doubted but that these numerous Instruments of Power lay the Inhabitants under Contribution in various secret ways over & above what appears upon the face of the Accounts.

18. In this reformation you are to proceed with a moderate, steady and persevering Spirit of Enquiry, looking rather to the prevention of Frauds for the future [.....] the Punishment of those Offences which have already passed, & which if not justified are at least much palliated by the immemorial Custom of the Moorish Government.

19. The Council so to be appointed at Moorshedabad and Patna, are to have the Controul of all the Business relating to the Revenue, but Mahmud Reza Cawn or some other principal Person of the Country must be appointed Naib Duan for the Bengal Province (that is the Company's Deputy) and all the Business must be carried on thro' the Naib and under his Seal and Signing.—And in like manner Shitabroy or some other principal Person at Patna for the Bahar Province.

20. The Council of Revenue are to sit daily or as often as may be necessary for the most minute attention to this important branch of Business.—The Naib is to give his Advice and Opinion upon the measures necessary to be taken, the Officers and Collectors requisite to be sent to the Different Districts, & the Orders & Powers to be given them, but the Council are to consider and determine the whole and no appointments are to be made, nor the Naib's Seal put to any Orders without their approbation, and Copies of all such Orders and Appointments are to be entered upon their Diary or a Book apart, and to be transmitted regularly to England.

21. We have said in a former part of this Letter that we have no view to prejudice the Rights of the Zemindars who hold certain Districts by Inheritance but when any of these die without Heirs, the Lands are to be lett for a term of Years and upon such Conditions as may encourage improvements in the Cultivation.—In like manner

where Lands lie waste you should propose Terms for settling them, giving the Undertakers every Advantage possible to enable them to proceed in a Work so beneficial to the Community in general, and Yielding to the Company in process of time a certain increase of Revenue.

22. To sum up the whole of this Subject in few Words, our meaning is, to save what we can of the large Salaries now paid to idle Dependents appointed to Nominal but useless Offices by the Country Government, and to lead you to such a Knowledge of the real State of the Rents & Cultivation of the several Districts as may enable you to keep the Tenants free from Imposition & Extortion, and to give every possible encouragement to the Husbandman and the Manufacturer.

23. The annual reduction of the Coin is certainly one great source of oppression, for it puts it in the Power of the Collector to charge the Tenant with what Discount he pleases upon all the Money Collected, under pretence that the Rupees are of a former date, altho' equal in Weight and Fineness but having wrote you fully on this Subject the 11th Novr. last we refer you to those directions and hope that you have succeeded in your endeavors to reform this Arbitrary Practice.

24. In answer to what we wrote you in our Letter of the 16 March 1768 Concerning laws of Inheritance for the better Security of Private Property, you refer us to a report from Mr. Sykes and the Ministers at Moorshedabad, and we find by Mr. Syke's Letter entered upon your Select Committee's Proceedings of the 6 Octor. 1768 that he has not been acquainted with any Instances of the Estates of deceased Persons being seized by the Government, but that whatever Confiscation of this nature or other Fines may have accrued are brought to the Public Account and are a part of the Revenue let out under the Title of the Fougedary of Moorshedabad.

25. We apprehend this to be a Revenue of a very dangerous nature for if the decisions of the Fougedar against the Estate and Property of Individuals are to bring Profit to himself it may fairly be supposed that his Judgment will be biassed by self Interest.

26. What we wrote you on this Subject in our Letter of the 16th Mar. 1768 was particularly intended to lead [to] a reform of that Practice, which we understood prevailed under the Moorish Government of confiscating to the Nabob's use the whole Estate of deceased Persons who had at any time been employed in the Service of the Government which Practice we suppose had its original in this sort of reasoning—That as these Officers during their administration did certainly abuse their Trust and make their

Fortunes out of the Public Money so it was just that the Government should take it again at their Death.

27. But as this Custom as far as it prevails must be productive of various Acts of Injustice & Oppression and must naturally occasion Money to be hoarded and Secreted in such manner as perhaps never to be brought again to light, to the great detriment of the General Interest of the Community, we therefore wished the Practice to be totally abolished and the whole Country to be acquainted by Public Advertisement that no Mans Property is to be touched without due course of Law; that where any Man is detected & convicted of defrauding the Public he shall be punished severely and obliged to make ample reparation but that this should not be attempted by the Arbitrary Will of any Minister.

28. Such an Assurance might we hope be the means of opening some Hoards of Money and thereby assisting the Currency of the Country.

29. Before we close this Subject we cannot help remarking that there seems to us to be great danger and Impropriety in having the Powers of Revenue and the Powers of Justice in one, and the same Person which seems to be the case in the Officers of the Fougedarry and as we apprehend in most other of the Public Offices of the several Districts.—This will be an object worthy of further enquiry and if the case is as it appears to us those Powers should be separated and distinct Lines drawn.

30. With a view of enlarging the Company's Trade & by a circuitous exchange of Commodities from one part of India to another, encreasing our China Investments with a less Exportation of Bullion we had under Consideration last year the settling an Establishment at Balambangan in right of the Grant made to the Company of that Island by the King of Sooloo.<sup>1</sup>

31. And in Prosecution of this design we wrote the 4th of November last to the President & Council of Bombay, to send one of their Cruizers to take Possesion of the said Island for the Company.

32. Having now Resolved to send Commissioners to India as you are in the following part of this Letter advised with full Powers of Superintending the Company's several Presidencies & directing their operations to one uniform Plan; and having the King's approbation of this measure and the Countenance of one of His Majestys Ships of War we think it the most favorable opportunity of making a Trial of this Establishment which if it succeeds will be a very important benefit to the Company in their present Circumstances.

33 We have now this matter under Consideration and you will be informed as early as possible of our final Determination

34 Upon a general view of the State of the Company's Affairs in India, the Alliances we are engaged in with the Country Powers, the frequent change of those Alliances and the Succession of Wars in which we are thereby Involved we find it absolutely necessary to take some effectual measures to regulate the Political System of the three Presidencies upon one uniform Plan, the first object of which will be a general Pacification of the Troubles in India upon a Solid Basis, or if unhappily Circumstances should be such that some Military Operations must be continued we shall make it easier to bring the Forces of the three Presidencies to co-operate and reduce our Enemies the sooner to submit to reasonable Terms

35 The vast increase of Charges in every Department is another object requiring extraordinary Powers of Reformation, and the Establishment of a better mode of Collecting the Duannee Revenues no less so, not only as it immediately affects the Company's Interest, but as being essential to the ease and happiness of the People the Security of their Property and the consequent encouragement of Cultivation & Manufactures

36 The directions we have hitherto given upon these important Points have produced in return many Arguments but few Effects, and as by this mode of proceeding we may never be able to establish the necessary Regulations we have Resolved to appoint Commissioners to proceed to India to carry our Orders into Execution without loss of time

37 We have accordingly appointed Henry Vansittart, Luke Scafton & Francis Forde Esqrs to be our Commissioners for the said purpose with Powers as Expressed more fully in their Commission which will be notified to you upon their Arrival But that you may be acquainted in general with the nature of it you are to understand that the Government of all [ ] Settlements is left in its usual course & Channel, but the Commissioners have a Superintending and controuling Power over the whole in like manner as if we the Court of Directors were ourselves present upon the Spot, and they are to proceed from Presidency to Presidency to make the desired Orders & Regulations They will advise with you so far as they judge necessary upon the several matters which they shall be instructed or shall think fit to take under their consideration, and as they are fully acquainted with our Sentiments upon every Subject they will explain more particularly our Designs & wishes which we are persuaded you will adopt upon Conviction without putting them to the necessity of making use of the Authority with which they are Invested

38. The Union of Interests between the Nation and the Company by the participation of Revenues under the present Agreement with the Government having made us in some measure responsible to the Public for our Conduct it became necessary that His Majesty should be informed of our intention in appointing this extraordinary Commission, and we have had the satisfaction of receiving the Royal Approbation with a strong recommendation to pursue every measure for the reform of Abuses & the due management of the Important Interests which we have in charge in the several parts of India.

39. At the same time His Majesty was graciously pleased to assure us of His Royal Protection on all occasions, which gives us room to hope that if necessary we shall have the countenance of a Squadron of Men of War to prevent any designs which other European Nations might be encouraged to entertain by the Intelligence they will receive of our Wars with the Country Powers.—For the present, the Aurora Frigate is ordered to be equipped with all Expedition as well to manifest His Majestys readiness to protect the Company as to afford a speedy Conveyance to our beforementioned Commissioners.

40. It is with concern we see in every Page of your Consultations, Restrictions, Limitations and Prohibitions affecting various Articles of Trade.—In a Country abounding with Manufactures, this is the worst of Policy, a free liberty of buying and selling encourages the Manufacturer and will encrease the number.—When the hand of Authority is held over them and they are told they have only one Market open for their Goods they will not long bestow their labors upon that Trade and the Quantity will decrease from Year to Year.—

General Letter from  
1st Feby. 1768 Pa. 19. We are led to these reflections from the Orders given concerning Piece Goods at Dacca as mentioned in the 19th Para. of your General Letter of the 22nd Feby. 1768 & your Resolutions in Consultation the 9th of that Month.

41. Your last regulations for carrying on the Salt Trade have so fettered it with Permits & Dustucks and various applications to the

Officers of the Country Government that we  
General Lre. from  
13th Septr. 1768 Pa. 62. such as are favorites of those Officers, but we apprehend no Merchant will have a Share but

Cons. 11th August. such as are favorites of those Officers, but we have not time to give you our Sentiments at large on this Subject by the present opportunity.

42. We are much surprized at the many questions which arose in the disputes between our President Mr. Verelst and General Smith concerning their respective Military Authorities. At a full Answer

to the whole, in a few Words, you are to understand that our Governor is to all Intents and Purposes the Commander in Chief of our Forces & whatever Orders he sends to any Officer, must be obeyed He is answerable to us for the use he makes of this Power, and if he takes upon himself to give orders without the Consent of the Council or Select Committee upon points belonging to their management he will suffer our severest Resentment —Mr Verelst seems to be liable to an imputation of this kind in the Instance of the Expedition to the Decan, under Coll Peach, but not being yet fully informed on the Subject we reserve it for further consideration

43 As to Mr Verelst's Question in Cons 6th Sept 1768 we say that the Governor is not himself to hold on any occasion a Warrant for appointing General Court's Martial Those Warrants are to be granted by the Governor & Council to such Officers as are sent upon distant Commands & the Proceedings are to be Transmitted to the Governor & Council for Approbation It would therefore be very improper that the Governor should hold any Power of this sort from the Board which is to approve the Proceedings, he himself being President of that Board

44 By the 180th Para of our General Letter of the 16th March 1768 We granted liberty to our Servants Civil, Marine and Military to send hither and import Gold or Silver in Specie or Bullion duty free, but as the Causes for allowing the importation thereof no longer exist, We do hereby revoke the Permission then given and declare that Gold and Silver on importation hereafter is to be subject to the same Duties and Charges as before the date of our said Letter

45 Mr William Bolts who returned hither from your Presidency on the Valentine having represented that by your obliging him to leave Bengal, his own and the Fortunes of several Persons for whom he was concerned to the Amount of upwards of £110,000 are left at the Mercy of the Natives in different Parts of the Country and that the greatest part thereof under the oppressions he has suffered he apprehends will never be received without our interposition, We therefore direct that you give Mr Bolts's Attornies Messrs Keir, Reed, Cator and Gibson effectual Assistance upon all such Applications as they may find necessary to make to you for facilitating the Recovery of his Outstanding Concerns, as well as those of his Constituents in the different parts of the Country, And you have herewith a Copy of his Applications to us on this Subject for your Government

46 By our Letter of the 16th March 1768 you were informed

Mr William Magee was allowed to proceed to  
 Para 75 and continue at your Presidency one Year from  
 the time of his Arrival, but being since informed that Term will be

insufficient to settle his Private Affairs,—We hereby admit of his stay there another Year for compleating that Business.

47. We have seriously reconsidered our former directions upon the Subject of Bills of Exchange, and have given due attention to what you have set forth in your several Letters to shew the inconveniences resulting from the present Restrictions.—That the French and Dutch will be supplied with English Money by those who want to remit to Europe is a natural consequence, and that they will insist upon being paid in Silver, seeing that Silver is the only legal tender that is or can be in that Country—and further that they will export as much as they think fit notwithstanding any order from the King or the Nabob and indeed your applying for such an order was contradictory there being no possibility of enforcing it, and you yourselves intending to be the first to break it by an Exportation to the Coast and to China.

Select Comtee. Proceedings 23 July 1768.

48. Such being the evident inconveniences of our refusal to receive Money into our Cash for Bills to be drawn upon England, it will be said the remedy is in our own Hands; if we will open our Treasury the French and Dutch will no longer be supplied; they will be under a necessity of importing Bullion for their Expences & Investments and we shall have it in our Power to Export to China as much as we think the Circumstances of the Country will bear.

49. We sincerely wish things could be brought to this State, but the single & unsurmountable objection is that if Bills are drawn to an unlimited amount we may be put to the utmost distress & difficulty to make good the Payments in England. For this reason we have been under a necessity so to model all our Orders upon this Subject as to confine the drafts to some degree of Proportion with our Investments.

50. And this rule we must not now lose Sight of, altho' our intention is to extend the Power of taking up Money as far as it can possibly be carried with any degree of Prudence.

51. Accordingly having considered the matter fully and maturely, and finding by your Letters that you have made a considerable increase of Investment, it has encouraged us to revoke our former Orders, upon the Subject of Remittance[s] and in lieu thereof we permit and empower you to draw upon us this Season for £200,000, and beyond that Sum, for the whole amount of the Supplies in Specie which you may be able to send to China to any Extent, depending on your Zeal & Assiduity in extending your Investments in such manner as may enable us to perform our Engagements, and to continue to you the same Indulgence in future Seasons.



52 Besides the above Sum of £200 000 you may grant Bills for the amount of Lord Clive's Jagheer, if his Agents desire it, & you may grant Certificates to the Captain and Officers of each home ward bound Ship as far as £5000, each Ship, under the express Conditions mentioned in the 114th Para of our Letter of the 11th November 1768

53 The Sum of £200 000 first to be drawn as abovementioned is to be divided & applied among the Companys Servants Civil and Military in such manner as may appear reasonable to you upon an impartial consideration of their several Situations and Circumstances and we shall depend upon your making this disposition in such an equitable manner as may leave no just cause of Complaint

54 The China Remittances are to be open to Free Merchants or any other Persons residing under our Protection as well as to the Companys Servants and likewise to whatever Sums shall be offered upon Account of the Estates of deceased Persons

55 We flatter ourselves your Supplies to China will be considerable notwithstanding the Scarcity of Silver you complain of in your Letters by the Valentine, Kent, and Verelst The ill Effects of the Establishment of the Gold Currency were then at their Height and disordered for the time the whole Commerce and Circulation of the Country when that mischief ceased and Gold found its way agun to the Market at its natural Price we hope that much Silver would again be brought forth, and that the Revenues would be paid in Silver as before

56 The Bills for the Sum of £200 000 first abovementioned, as well as for Lord Clive's Jagheer are to be drawn at the rate of 2s 2½d P Current Rupee and at 365 days Sight, and the Bills for such further Sums as shall be sent to China are to be drawn at the rate of 2s 4d P Current Rupee payable three Years after Sight, This Latitude being necessary for enabling the Company to bring the amount of the sales of their Cargoes into Circulation at the time the Bills will become due

57 You will observe that we have increased the rate of Exchange in proportion to the time allowed for Payment, and this we mean to be in lieu of the Interest formerly paid for the exceeding time after Ninety days accordingly you are to give the Billholders to understand they will not be intitled to any Interest upon Bills that will be drawn in consequence of these Orders

58 In our Letter of the 17th March last Paras 113 & 117 you were informed of a Bill having been brought into Parliament respecting a new Agreement with the Public & the Propositions

made by us on behalf of the Company were transmitted to you, it is now necessary you should be acquainted that an Act has passed in the last Session of Parliament nearly Corresponding with the Articles of those Propositions. by which Act as you will see by the enclosed Copy, the Company has agreed to pay to the Public £400,000 P. Ann, for five Years commencing from the 1st February 1769 and is required by Bond to export annually on an average to their several Settlements to the amount of £380837 in Goods & Merchandize of the Growth, Produce or Manufacture of Great Britain exclusive of Military & Naval Stores.

59. By your Statements received by the Ships of this Season we find that agreeable to our Orders of 16 March 1768 you insert only the Effective Stock of your Presidency and Subordinates.—But as the Articles of Dead Stock especially Fortifications and Buildings are increasing Annually to a very considerable amount & your General Books (were they transmitted in due Course) are closed at too remote a Period to shew us their value at a time we might have occasion to state the same—We hereby direct that you send us with every Quick Stock Account a Seperate state of Fortifications and Buildings at the Factories as well as Fort William.—And such other Articles of Debts, Charges &c. as shall have been omitted in your Statements, in order that we may be Supplied with every material information relative to the General State of your Presidency & Subordinates.

60. When we gave you directions for framing your Quick Stock Accounts we remarked on your omitting the Balance of Moorshedabad Treasury and required your Attention to so material a part of those Accounts.—It is therefore with the greatest Surprize we find the same omission on your Quick Stocks of this Season.—We are thereby constrained to require in the most positive manner that you insert on your future statements the amount of such Sums as may be in the Hands of the Durbar Resident at a period the nearest possible to the dates thereof—and we must apprise you that any Neglect of this order will be considered by us as deserving Our highest displeasure.

61. Upon perusing your Select Committees Letter of the 21 November last in which you mention your apprehensions that the great Scarcity of Silver will prevent the early Advances to the Aurungs & endanger the Investment.—In case this extraordinary Scarcity should continue contrary to our expectation [s] upon the Arrival of these Advices, we leave it to you to judge of the propriety of making the Remittances to China, taking care the Aurungs are provided with sufficient supplies of Specie to obtain a preference of

all Foreign Companies, it being our intention that the valuable Investment from Bengal should be secured by you, in the first place.

We are

Your Loving Friends

G. Colebrooke/Pere Cust/Hy. Crabb Boulton/John Harrison/  
Peter DuCane Junr./J. Purling/Wm. James/John Roberts/  
George Cuming/Chas. Boddam/John Motteux/Ben Booth/  
Wm. Geo Freeman/ William Snell/ Daniel Wier/ Henry  
Fletcher/Richd Bosanquet/ L. Sullivan.

London 30th June 1769.

*Enclosures 1 & 2*

# COPY OF MEMORIALS BY MR. W. BOLTS TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

*(19 May 1769)*

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

The Petition of William Bolts late of Bengal Humbly Sheweth.

That your Petitioner entered into the Service of the Honorable the United East India Company in the Year 1759 in which he continued faithfully and diligently to Serve the said Company 'till the 10th November 1766 when he resigned the Service.

That the cause of his resigning the said Service was occasioned by the general confusion & injustice which prevailed after the appointment of the Select Committee, all gradation of Rank & Service being set at nought and every perferment to any Office of profit or trust being disposed of from Faction Private Interest and Party without any regard to merit or Service, contrary to the solemn declaration of the Honorable Court of Directors That injurious supercessions should not in future take place Nevertheless four Gentlemen totally unexperienced (*sic*) in the affairs of Bengal were brought from Madras & introduced as Councillors on the Bengal Establishment and Mr. Alexander Campbell, notwithstanding another solemn declaration of the Court of Directors, That he was

not to rise above the rank of his first appointment was likewise taken into Council but more particularly because Mr. John Graham a Junior Servant to your Petitioner was appointed Resident at Burdwan and because Mr. Isaac Sage a Writer of not three years Standing was appointed to the Residency of Banares in preference to your Petitioner who had actually served there as Second in Council; besides many other supercessions of the like injurious nature too numerous to particularize.

That after leaving the Service of the said Honourable Company your Petitioner continued to prosecute his concerns as a Merchant & Attorney to several persons who had left The East Indies and also as an Alderman or one of the Judges of the Mayor's Court of Calcutta, an honour which had been bestowed on him some time before his resignation.

That the Governor and Council of Calcutta having formed several cruel unjust and oppressive Monopolies particularly in Cotton Salt, Beetlenut, Piece Goods, Salt-petre Ophium &ca. contrary to natural Justice and the express orders of the Honourable Court of Directors repeated again & again, it was the misfortune of your Petitioner in the prosecution of his Affairs to clash with their Interests which drew upon him the heaviest resentment of the various members concerned in such Trades, particularly that of your Governor Mr. Harry Verelst and the Commander in Chief of your Army Mr. Richard Smith, which they severally vented by acts of the greatest cruelty and injustice against your Petitioner.

That particularly your said Governor and Select Committee did on the 20th April 1767 under the hand of Alexander Campbell banish your Petitioner from the Settlement in Bengal in conform [ation] to a Sentence of the said Committee of the 18th of April 1767 signed C. W. Boughton, where your Petitioner tho' a British Subject and a Judge of the Mayors Court of Calcutta had been condemned to the severest punishment under death unacquainted with his charge, unfronted with his accusers & unheard in his defence.

That the absurdity and inconsistency of the whole of the Proceedings of your Governor and Select Committee in the above Transaction cannot appear in a stronger Light than by the Sentence of Banishment itself, where your Petitioner is condemned for what the Committee supposed he would commit and therefore as a full Answer to this part of his accusation after denying every part of it, your Petitioner begs leave only to transcribe his condemnation in the very words of the Select Committee vizt.

"That Mr William Bolts appears from many circumstances to be deeply concerned in the conspiracy to ruin Nobekissen's\* Character and attempt his life, in which opinion the Committee are confirmed by his violent and declared resentment to Nobekissen, by the share he took in stirring up and instigating a Prosecution against him in the Zemindarry Court upon an imaginary and false accusation, And particularly from his taking at this juncture into his service Ramnaut a man who stands publicly convicted of Perjury, with a view of forging and publishing further aspersions upon Nobekissen's Character That Mr Bolts having upon this and many other occasions endeavoured to draw an odium upon the Administration and to promote Faction and Discontent in the Settlement, has rendered himself unworthy of any further indulgence from the Committee and of the Company's Protection That therefore he be directed to quit Bengal and to proceed to Madrass by the first Ship that shall Sail for that Presidency in the month of July next in order to take his passage from thence to Europe in September'

'C W Boughton

That independent of the Protection which your Petitioner had a right to claim in his Majesty's Dominions as a British Subject he was further protected in his person & property as being a Judge of the Honorable the Mayors Court of Calcutta, who during life cannot be removed agreeably to the Charter of Justice of the 26th Geo 2d unless upon a complaint in writing first exhibited against him and that he have a reasonable time given him to make his defence, and that he be summoned for that purpose none of which requisites were complied with respecting your Petitioner

That notwithstanding the above Guaranty provided by the Charter in favor of the Subject & for the protection of the Judge your said Governor & Council did on the 1st October 1767 direct the Mayor and other Judges to remove your Petitioner from his Seat as Alderman, in violation of the express words of the Charter as well as Common Justice

That in order to shew the Ridicule and Contempt which the Governor and Council had drawn upon themselves by the above Proceedings your Petitioner begs merely to transcribe the letter from the Council to the Mayor's Court and the answer—Viz

'To John Holme Esqr

Register to the Hon'ble the Mayor's Court of Calcutta

Sir

I am directed by the Hon ble the President & Council to request

you will acquaint the Hon'ble the Mayor's Court that they have directed Mr. William Bolts now an Alderman of their Court to proceed to Europe by the next Ship that Sails from hence, they give the Hon'ble Court this notice that they may if they please apply for another Alderman in his room, and to acquaint them on their so doing their request shall be immediately complied with, I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servt.

Simeon Droz

Fort William

the 1st Octor. 1767.

Secry.

The Mayor's Court having considered the letter of Simeon Droz of the 1st October returned for answer [that] when there shall happen a vacancy of an Alderman in the Mayor's Court the Governor and Council shall be acquainted therewith.

That your Petitioner being informed that your said Governor and Council did intend in conformity to the above sentence of Banishment to seize your Petitioner and send him Prisoner to England, he was obliged to withdraw himself from Calcutta and reside for a Considerable time at the Dutch Settlement of Chinsurah in order to attend to the settlement of his Affairs.

That your said Governor & Council still prosecuting their malice against your Petitioner did further order his Agents and Gomastahs in the Several parts of the Country, employed only to collect his outstanding Concerns, to be seized and confined Prisoners, whereby a considerable part of your Petitioner's fortune as well as the Concerns he had for others, were totally lost or dispersed, many of his Goods being plundered and your Petitioners Servants and Manufacturers from whom he was receiving the ballances due on contracts, were taken and employed by sundry of the Members of your said Council, who availed themselves of this wicked act to establish their own trade upon the ruin of your Petitioner.—

That your Petitioner's said unhappy Agents who were Armenian Christian Merchants, of established credit and reputation, named Cogee Melcomb, Cogee Gregory and Cogee Rafael, had never been guilty of any breach of the Laws of the Country or ever acted contrary to the Interests of the Company to merit their being deprived of Protection, notwithstanding they were suddenly seized and imprisoned without they or your Petitioner being acquainted with any reason for such imprisonment.

That your Petitioner conscious of not having committed any act against the Laws of his Country or the Interest of the East India Company and seeing the utter ruin that threat'ned his Fortune, did return to Calcutta & as a British Subject claimed by various letters

that redress from the Governor & Council which he conceived he had a right to expect, but without being so fortunate as to obtain it or any satisfaction whatever

That notwithstanding the most decent remonstrances were made by your Petitioner on behalf of his beforementioned imprisoned Agents and the most earnest and humble Petitions were delivered in by those Armenians, their distressed Parents & Wives yet your said President & Council paid no regard there[to] but kept them confined for above five months, then setting them at liberty without ever having accuse[ ] confronted or heard them, to the utter ruin of those injured Persons and their Families even refusing to grant them Perwanahs or Dustucks to enable them to bring down their effects from which they had been thus forcibly and suddenly taken

That your before said Governor Mr Harry Verelst was pleased to write your Petitioner under date the 31st March 1768 that he had given no orders to impede your Petitioners Business, in the following express words Vizt — I know of no orders for impeding the business of your Gomastahs in particular in the Dominions of Sujah Dowlah & Bulwansing'

Which assertion was again confirmed by a Letter from the Secretary to the Select Committee by order of the Board, dated the 15th April 1768 The Originals of both which Letters are in your Petitioners possession, Notwithstanding of both which Assertions, the following Minute introduced by your Governor Mr Harry Verelst had been recorded on a Consultation of the 10th December 1767 Vizt

'The President is further informed that Mr Bolts has an Armenian Agent at Teysabad named Cogee Rafael, another at Banaras named Cogee Melcomb & a third residing near Ghazipore by name Cogee Gregory,—through these People he ungratefully endeavours to injure the interests of those in whose Service he has raised an independency & those Armenians under the Character of English Gomastahs are striving to establish themselves in Sujah Dowlah's Dominions upon the footing they were formerly at Muxadavad, notwithstanding the Nabob on account of some mal-practices has lately forbidden them his presence The President and Council has however desired his Excellency to banish all such as are in his Country under the Pretexs of being Gomastahs to the English"—

That your Petitioner being also himself threat'ned with violence and finding no redress could be had from the said Governor & Council who had thus violated every Principle of private Honour and publick Justice did apply for the protection of the General Court

of Justice at Calcutta and did accordingly prefer his complaint to the Grand Jury, when by an extraordinary interposition of the said Governor & Council then sitting as Judges the different Evidences in the cause were, on the most frivolous & unheard of Pretexts, refused by the Court to be sworn or admitted to appear before the Grand Jury; though such Evidences were present in Court and demanded both by the Jury & the Prosecutor.

That in consequence thereof the Grand Jury of the Country did deliver into Court the following Protest which was the occasion of breaking up of the Court and thereby obstructing the whole course of Publick Justice in the Settlement, Vizt.—

"The Grand Jury impanelled & sworn at a Quarter Sessions held this 27th day of May 1768 in the Town of Calcutta take this method to acquaint The Honorable Justices of the Peace now sitting that an information has been laid before them on oath by William Bolts Inhabitant of Calcutta, whereupon the Grand Jury summoned two witnesses named in the Information in order to their being examined, one of whom being the Sheriff and the other the Clerk of the Peace, the Bench of Justices thought proper to refuse their attendance on the Grand Jury, Whereupon other Witnesses were summoned by an Officer of the Court, as the Grand Jury conceive in the usual manner, which the Bench of Justices were pleased to disapprove of as the Grand Jury understood by a message from the Bench delivered to them by Mr. George Lear one of their Body, who also delivered further that the Bench were of opinion that the Grand Jury seemed to aim at assuming a power Superior to the Government. The Grand Jury are deeply concerned to find that their endeavours to acquit themselves of their duty as bound by their Oaths should have brought upon them so severe a reflection from the Bench which they are not conscious of having deserved and they will venture to say that no Grand Jury was ever better disposed to the Government than the Present.

In case the Bench do persevere in their resolution of not permitting the Grand Jury to examine Witnesses upon Oath touching the said Information and refuse to swear in such Witnesses the Grand Jury have no other method of proceeding left (as without the examination of Witnesses they cannot collect the opinions of the Jurors) but to deliver in the said Information to the Bench of Justices, with this Address, who will then be answerable for all consequences.

(Signed) Cornelius Goodwin  
Foreman"



That soon after this your Petitioner's house was surrounded and himself seized by a Military force, and being allowed only about two hours to pack up his Cloaths, was dragged from his Family on board a Schooner under close confinement, where he was kept Six days and nights under the guard of the said Soldiers with drawn Bayonets & from thence conveyed on board the Valentine bound for England, then under Sail in order to be brought a Prisoner to England

That by such cruel & illegal Proceedings the principal part of your Petitioner's fortune the Fruits of the Toil of many years as well as the Fortunes of many Persons for whom he was Attorney to the Amount altogether of upwards of One hundred and Ten thousand pounds Sterling are left at the mercy of the Natives in different Parts of the Country the greatest part of which sum he reasonably presumes under the oppressions he has suffered will never be recovered without the immediate interposition of this Court of Directors —

That your Petitioner on board the said Ship Valentine arrived at Plymouth on the 30th April pass'd & now appears before the present Court of Directors claiming such relief as they may think his case requires being desirous & willing to answer to any part of his Conduct which may appear to require Justification and in particular humbly requesting to be informed, whether the proceedings of the said Honorable Company's Governor & Council in Bengal towards your Petitioner are vindicated or condemned by this Honorable Court

London  
the 19th May 1769

And your Petitioner as in  
duty bound Shall ever pray  
(Signed) William Bolts

To the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Gentlemen

By Appointment of the Honourable Court having on the 24th Instant attended the Committees of Correspondence & Lawsuits, upon my Petition of the 19th Instant, sundry Paragraphs of the general Letters which have been lately written to Bengal respecting me, were there read, & upon my requesting to be furnished with Copies thereof I was inform'd by the said Committees, that they cou'd not be authoris'd to grant Copies of any public Letters to any Persons whatsoever except by Order of the General Court

I therefore request the Court will be pleas'd to order me the said Copies together with Copies of all such Paragraphs from the Governor & Council or Select Committee as contain any Charge against me

The said Committees were also pleas'd to express a readiness to send out such Orders the Governor & Council at Bengal as might be most effectual for the Recovery of my outstanding mercantile Concerns & those of Persons for whom I acted as Attorney: of which I was desired to give a Note.

On this Subject & in Order to save as much as possible of the Wreck of my Fortune and those of my Constituents I cou'd wish that General Orders may be given to the said Governor & Council to assist my Attornies Messrs. Kier, Reed, Cator and Gibson in all such Applications as they may find necessary to make, upon my outstanding Concerns.

Particularly That they will issue Orders to the different Zemindars & Fouzdars of Denagepore, Purnea, Jessor, Roymungul, Culnea, Ingellee, and Houghly, & to the Fouzdar of Silhet to enforce the Collection of my outstanding Debts due from them or from the Inhabitants of their respective Districts.

That the Chief & Council at Dacca be ordered to assist in like Manner in the Recovery of Contracts due from the Dulols, Pycars & other Assamies of those Districts: the same to those of Patna & to the Residents at Burdwan & Midnapore.

Also to the Rajah Bulwantsing & the Nabob Sujah al Dowlah for the Recovery of Debts & for the Receipt of Twenty seven Thousand Rupees worth of Salt Petre, upon my Attorney's paying the Amount due agreeable to the Terms of nine Perwanahs granted me by his Excellency the said Nabob Sujah al Dowlah.

And as in many Places where Money cannot be had from the bad Effects of the Debas[ement] of the Coinage the Debtors may be desirous of giving Goods I am to request that the Governor & Council may be order'd to furnish my Attornies with Dustucks to bring the Goods down to Calcutta This only for such a limited Time as to this Court may appear reasonable & under the customary Restraints that no Applications shall be made but for my outstanding Concerns only.

I must here observe that as many of my said Concerns interfere with the private Interests of those who are to give the Orders, who have heretofore rack'd their Invention for Method to oppress me, every Evasion of the Express Orders of this Hon'ble Court may be reasonably expected: therefore I trust their Commands will be so express that no subterfuge can take place.

I am with the greatest Respect  
Gentlemen

Your most obedient Servant,  
William Bolts.

London  
the 26th May 1769.

## LETTER DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1769

*Position and functions of the Commissioners—Sir John Lindsay to settle matters in the Persian Gulf—Instructions concerning relations with country powers—attitude to be adopted towards French private traders—servants of the Company to be encouraged to learn Sanskrit and Persian—composition of the Secret Committee of the Directors.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last Letter to you went under date of the 30th June last by the Lapwing Snow which sailed from Falmouth the 5th July, Duplicate thereof accompanys this, with Triplicate of our Letter of the 11th May last sent by the Ship Fox by way of Bombay.

2. Since our last Dispatch was sent to the Lapwing at Falmouth your General and Select Committees Letters of the 3d and 6th January have been received by the Ship Queen, and your General and Select Committees Letters of the 2d and 3d with one from Governor Verelst of the 17th February last by the Ship Salisbury.

3. You will receive this Letter by His Majesty's Frigate Aurora of 32 Guns Commanded by Captain Thomas Lee whereon Henry Vansittart, Luke Scrafton and Francis Forde Esquires will proceed in Consequence of His Majesty's Permission for their embarking thereon,—Our last Letter advised you that these Gentlemen were appointed Commissioners to superintend and Regulate the Affairs of our several Presidencies, and this appointment has since met with the Concurrence of the General Court of Proprietors, The Commission and Instructions which we have judged it expedient to give those Gentlemen you will be properly informed of from them, and due Obedience to the authority delegated by the said Commission is hereby strictly [required] from all whom it may concern, And it is our Express Order and Direction that you our Governor and Council as well as our Servants in general do afford every assistance the Commissioners may require that the great Business of their Commission may be facilitated in the best manner possible, & thereby brought to a speedy Conclusion.

4. In consideration of the Rank that Henry Vansittart Esqr. has held in our Service at Bengal, we direct that all Military honor

be paid him as first Commissioner during his stay at your Presidency in the same manner as is done to the Governor, whose Honours We do not mean should be suspended in any degree during the time the Commissioners remain at your Presidency.

5. The Commissioners are instructed to Summon by their Secretary under direction of the first Commissioner, the Governor or Second or any others of the Company's Servants who they may think necessary, in order to take their advice & assistance upon any point of the Company's affairs that may require it, & such persons are hereby directed to give the best informations and assistance in their powers on those subjects.

6. In making Peace or War or matters which shall be adjudged of the utmost importance to the Company's Interest, we have directed that whatever Resolution shall be taken thereon by the Commissioners the same is to be laid before our Select Committee at the Presidency where they may happen to be, who are to be at liberty to represent and deliver to them their Sentiments thereupon which the Commissioners are to consider maturely before they finally determine upon such Resolution.

7. As it may happen that the Gentlemen acting under our present Commission may fall in with some of Our Shipping either in their voyages to Europe or from Port to Port in India whose Dispatches it may be material they should be acquainted with, We have given them an order to the Commanders for producing their Packets, which the Commissioners are to open for obtaining such information as they may contain.

8. Being fully sensible of the great advantages which will accrue to the Company from the Execution of the Commission by Gentlemen of their abilities and Reputation, We have agreed to pay every reasonable Expence which the Commissioners may be at in the Prosecution of the objects thereof, in which we mean to include the Charges of their Table and Voyage to and from India and from one part of India to another, and We direct that you advance those Gentlemen such sums as they may apply to you for, in Order to defray their own Expences or those of their attendants hereafter mentioned.

9. We have not appointed any Person to proceed from hence in the station of Secretary to the Commissioners but have left it to those Gentlemen to select such unexceptionable Person to be appointed to that post as they may think proper from the Civil List of either of the Presidencies at which They may be resident, who is to act during their Continuance at such Presidency or for the

whole Term that the Commission shall operate at the others,—And we have left it to the option of those gentlemen to bring such Persons or others whom they shall take to their assistance from any of their Presidencies with them from India, or not, as they shall think proper

10 Mr Robert Day having for several years behaved in a Satisfactory manner in our Secretarys and accountants offices here We have appointed him Clerk to the Commissioners to assist in their business, he is to proceed with them from one Presidency to another till the Commission is closed and thereupon to return with them to England

11 The Reverend Mr William Hirst is appointed to proceed with the Commissioners as their Chaplain, and during his Continuance as such he is to receive the same Salary and Allowances as the Chaplains upon your Establishment to commence from the time of his proceeding from hence

12 We have likewise agreed that Mr John Drew shall attend the Commissioners as their Surgeon on the same footing as to allowances as the Surgeons under your Establishment to commence from the time of his embarking from hence, and he is to return hither on the Expiration of the Commission

13 We have permitted Henry Vansittart Esquire to take with him his son Arthur, a Youth of 13 years of age to instruct him in the Persian Tongue and accompany him to the several Presidencies for gaining a knowledge of the Company's affairs, and at the close of the Business of the Commission he is to be received into the Company's service as a writer upon your establishment

14 Mr Joseph Watkins has also our License to proceed to Bengal to be employed in Mr Vansittart's private Business and upon his return to England, Mr Watkins is to remain in India as a Free Merchant

15 It having been proposed on the part of the Crown to send a naval officer of Experience to the East Indies with full powers from the King and also from the Company, to command their marine Force in India and to Treat and settle matters in the Persian Gulph

16 We have agreed that such an officer on his arrival at Bombay shall take the Command of all our ships, Frigates and armed vessels which are or shall be employed in and throughout the Gulph of Persia for the purpose of Treating and settling matters in the said Gulph, but that previous to his going on the Expedition he is to take the advice of our Governor and Council of Bombay, and when

that object is finished with regard to any other operations of His Majesty's ships or our Marine, where the Station of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships shall render it practicable, We direct that in the absence of the aforesaid Commissioners the Select Committee or you do obtain his advice and assistance and Concert with him all such Measures as shall be necessary for carrying any Maritime Plan or Purpose into execution and he is to be instructed accordingly.

17. His Majesty having been pleased to appoint Sir John Lindsay to proceed on this Service, We have granted him, or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships in the East Indies for the time being a Commission and full power accordingly, to the inclosed Copy whereof and of our Instructions to him, you are referred for fuller information of the authorities with which he is invested and we have directed our Governor and Council of Bombay and do also hereby direct you to give him the utmost assistance to enable him to carry the purposes of that Commission into effectual Execution in such manner as shall appear most Conducive to the Honour of the Nation and the Advantage of the Company most strenuously recommending it to you in all your proceedings on the Important object to Cultivate and promote that Harmony with His Majesty's officers which is so absolutely necessary for the good of the Common Cause.

18. The General Court have recommended it to us to apply for a further Naval assistance from the Crown consisting of ships [...] the Line for the Protection and Security of our Possessions in the East Indies and that matter is at present under consideration [...] we hope will be granted, a future opportunity must serve to give a more particular account of the measures that shall be taken thereon.

19. Should any of His Majesty's Ships which shall proceed to the East Indies this Season be in want of Stores, Provisions and Necessaries whilst in India, we hereby direct that you furnish the Captains with such sums of Money as they shall apply to you for on that account taking Bills of Exchange upon the proper [office...] here drawn for the sums so advanced at the Current Exchange allowed the Company's Covenant Servants payable to the Court of Directors in Money at Thirty one days sight, taking four Bills of the same Tenor and transmitting three of them to us by different Conveyances.

20. And you are also directed to adjust all accounts relative to His Majesty's Ships with the proper Officers and procure Bills as before directed for the Ballances which shall be due or that the accounts be so authentically certified by the Commander in Chief

and other proper officers that we may not be put to the trouble of Soliciting the payment of them here as has been formerly the Case to our very great Inconvenience and Loss

21 You are to pay the Honours due to His Majesty's Flag on the proper and usual return being made in respect to Salutes

22 You are to treat the officers of the King's ships in a genteel and Friendly manner taking care to promote and Cultivate a good understanding and Harmony with them for the benefit of the service in general, And in respect to House rent or other appointments the Rules that were observed during the last War towards His Majesty's Naval officers of the different Ranks must be your guide

23 You are hereby directed to allow to Sir John Lindsay or the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in the East Indies for the time being after the rate of Forty Shillings a day which we desire his acceptance of to defray the Expence of House Rent, and for keeping a Table for himself and such Commanders and officers as he shall think proper, which Allowance is to commence on his Arrival at any of our Presidencies in India and to continue during the time of his being Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships in India and is to be in full consideration of all allowances whatsoever

24 After Sir John Lindsay's return from the Gulph if our Presidency of Bombay should undertake any other Marine Expe[dition] they are to put under his Command such of the Company's Marine Force as shall be thought necessary for such Expedition, and it is our meaning that he is not to interfere with any other of the Company's Marine Force but such as shall be so put under his Command by Our said Governor and Council of Bombay

25 Altho' Sir John Lindsay is appointed Commander in Chief of the Company's Marine as beforementioned, We do not mean that such authority is to be considered to extend over the Company's European Freighteds ships which are by no means to be diverted from their respective Voyages to Military operations without the special Consent of the Commissioners or in their absence of the Company's Governors and Councils for that purpose, nor is it our Intention that the said Commission should extend to Sir John Lindsay's interfering in the nomination or appointment of any officers in the ships and vessels which our Marine force is [Comp ]

26 In the foregoing 21st Para you are directed to pay the Honors due to the King's flag, and having been since informed that

Sir John Lindsay ranks as Rear Admiral, you are therefore for that Rank to salute him with 13 Guns, and with two more Guns as Commander in Chief, And you are to pay him all other Honours [due] to those Ranks.

27. From the late advices from Bombay We are very Unhappy in being confirmed in the Opinion then given on the distracted state of our affairs in the Gulph of Persia, and the ineffectual and improper means used for re-establishing them and restoring our Credit there, this is now become a national object not only in its nature highly interesting to the Company's and the private Trade in India but in a more particular manner affecting the Consumption of the Manufactures of this Country, it is for the Remedy of these Evils that His Majesty has been most graciously pleased to afford us his Royal Countenance and support by a Marine Force now proceeding to India under Sir John Lindsay's Command, Our Governor and Council of Bombay are therefore according to our before-mentioned directions to give every aid and assistance that can be spared in Order to restore Our affairs and fix them on a solid and lasting Foundation of Tranquility there, for preventing a Diminution in the Sale of the British Manufactures from the continuation of the Troubles in those parts and the other Inconveniencies and Losses that may be thereby sustained.

28. In our Letter by the Lapwing Packet, We gave you our general opinion upon the subject of alliances with the Country Powers, the amount of which to sum it up in few words, was this, that we regarded with a Jealous eye the increasing power of the Morattas and that it would be bad Policy in us to take part in any operations which might tend to weaken the few remaining Chiefs of India that are in Condition to oppose their encroachments.

29. Your intended Treaty with Janogee contains some articles that are very different from this plan of Politicks particularly the

2d: which stipulates that the English Forces shall Join him, whenever required, to assist him offensively and defensively so that we might be called upon to make Conquests for the Morattas upon the Nabob of the Decan or any other Chiefs of India, even our best allies are not expected, if Janogee should think fit to set up a Claim upon them. The very large sum of Money agreed to be paid to Janogee for arrears of the Bengal Chout is another strong objection for you will find that the more Concessions you make to that people and the more strength you put into their hands, the more troublesome they will be and their Demands will increase with their power.

Select Comtees. Pro-  
ceedings 13th Decr.  
1768.



30 Upon the whole we hope that Treaty has not taken place and here we shall for the present close the Subject leaving the further consideration of these affairs to the Commissioners who are to have the sole direction of the negotiations and Correspondence with the Country powers while they remain at your Presidency

31 His most Christian Majesty by a Decree of the 13th of last Month of which you have a Copy inclosed having suspended the Trade of the French Company to the East Indies until he shall otherwise Order and open the same freely to all his subjects under the Conditions required by that Decree We give you this early Notice of that interesting event that you may persue every Prudent means which it may afford of increasing your Investments and purchasing the Articles thereof, particularly piece Goods and Raw Silk at more reasonable rates It will further be an essential part of your Duty to take the most effectual measures that a sacred observance of the Law of Nations shall Justify, to prevent and remove any prejudices and Inconveniences that may result to our Interest and Commerce within the Limits of your Presidency from any Irregularities and excess of the French private Traders and that all our Covenant servants and others trading under our protection subject to your Jurisdiction be publicly and positively under the severest Penalties you have power to inflict required on no account to hold any Commercial Intercourse whatsoever with them

32 Mr Wood having in his Letter of the 2d Instant, extract of which is inclosed, acquainted us that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to recommend it to Sir John Lindsay to assist our Views for affecting a Settlement at Ballambangan we therefore direct that you acquaint that Gentleman with all the steps you have taken as well as furnish him with every light you are possessed of and Co-operate with him in the most effectual manner to obtain the benefits proposed from that undertaking

33 The Coral merchants have presented a Memorial to us desiring we would facilitate the means of having their Remittances made to them in return for their Coral We cannot make a particular exception in their favour from Our general Orders respecting Remittances but recommend it to you to consider them as Intitled to every Indulgence in this respect, And if you can open any new Channel for furnishing them with Diamonds or can contribute to the safety of their Transportation to Our Settlements you will render a very essential Service to this Country, which is much benefitted by their Commerce

34 We wait your further report upon the Conduct of Mr Williamson in respect to the Overcharges in the prices of

Materials supplied for the new Barricks (*sic*) at Cossimbuzar, at present we shall only take notice of what relates to the two assistants Mr Palk and Mr Van Rixtell whom you have continued in our Service in consideration of their having laid before you a fair account of the whole transaction, and judging that their fault proceeded more from bad Example than from dishonest principles,—Having given a favourable attention to these reasons, and considered their youth and inexperience, we approve of the Grounds of your Lenity, towards them, and direct that you call them before you and after having reprimanded them in severe Terms to acquaint them that we expect the utmost diligence and fidelity in return for this Indulgence, after which you may employ them wherever they may be found useful.

35. The Reverend Mr Parry being represented by you to be frequently unable to perform the Duties of the Church, We direct that he be dismissed our Service and proceed to Europe by the first opportunity (*sic*).  
 Genl Lre from 13  
 Sept 1768 Pa 146.

36. We find that you were induced by the inability of the Reverend Mr Parry to apply to Sir Charles Hudson<sup>1</sup> to permit the Reverend Mr Yates whom he brought out in his ship as a Tutor to his Son to enter into Our service as one of the Chaplains at your Presidency but as that Gentleman was carried to India without our Privy or Consent, and consequently you had no authority from us to entertain him, we likewise direct that Mr Yates be discharged from the Chaplainship of your Presidency and sent to Europe by the first Ship.  
 Do Lre Pa 147.

37. Sensible of the Justice of your Observations on the frequent Removals in the Post of Secretary of the Presidency and desirous of removing the inconveniences arising therefrom, we direct that Mr Richard Browne who is a Free Merchant at your Presidency be appointed to the office of Sub Secretary on receipt hereof with a view to qualify himself to be standing Secretary, he is not to be stationed on the Line of Our Covenant Servants and you are to assign him an annual allowance equal to the Emoluments which former Sub Secretary's have enjoyed.

38. Captain David Cuming having been recommended to Us for his good behaviour in the Wars in Bengal, wherein he was severely wounded, we direct that he do succeed to the Post of Deputy Master Attendant under your Presidency after the persons we have already nominated to succeed to that Station.

39. It gives us great pleasure to observe the attention paid to our recommendations for learning the Persian Language by several

of our Covenant Servants and we very much approve the Encouragement you have given them for so doing—As it would likewise be very beneficial to the Service to have our Servants acquire a knowledge of the Moorish and Gentoo Languages, we direct that you give them all proper Encouragement for so doing, and acquaint us with the names of such who distinguish themselves herein.

40. The Box which contained your General Letter and Packets by the Salisbury was not received from that ship till some days after the box with the Select Committee's Packet which was occasioned by your omitting to acquaint the Captain which of your Packets he was to send up first, You must in future give the Commanders proper Instructions on this head, and be careful to put your General and Select Committees Letters and Packets and the private Letters in a box by themselves and distinguish it on the outside from those which contain Books, which Box the Commander is to be directed to send up to the India House from the first port of his arrival.

41. We have taken up Thirty Ships for the purposes of carrying on the Company's Trade to all parts of the East Indies and China the ensuing Season upon the same Terms as those of last year, except that agreeably to a stipulation in Charterparty no ships are to be dispatched home from Bengal before the first of November (instead of the Twenty first as formerly) nor after the Eleventh day of March in every year the ships names Commanders and Consignments are as follows Vizt.

<i>Ships Names</i>	<i>Commanders</i>	<i>Consignments</i>
Houghton . . .	William Smith	Early Coast & Bay
Europa . . .	Henry Hinde Pelly	} Madeira & Coast & Bay
New Ship . . .	John Horne	
Earl of Elgin . .	Thomas Cooke	} Madeira & Coast & China
New Ship . . .	Nicholas Skottowe	
Valentine . . .	Charles Purvis	} Coast and China
New Ship . . .	Thomas Liell Junior	
Harcourt . . .	Collingwood Roddam	St. Helena and Bencoolen
British King . .	Daniel Griffith Hoare	St. Helena Bencoolen & China

<i>Ships Names</i>	<i>Commanders</i>	<i>Consignments</i>
Hawke . . . .	John Cotton	} Coast & China
Bute . . . .	Patrick Maitland	
Duke of Gloucester	John Lauder	
Huntingdon . .	Peter Pigou	
New Ship . . .	Robert Ker	
New Ship . . .	Anthony Eglinton	
Lord Mansfield .	James Angus	} Theneriffe and Coast & Bay
Egmont . . . .	Charles Mears	
Verelst . . . .	Thomas Compton	} Coast & Bay
Vansittart . . .	Roger Fish Palmer	
Royal Captain .	Edward Berrow	} Bencoolen & China
New Ship . . .	James Moffatt	
Kent . . . . .	John Milles	} China
New Ship . . .	Thomas Atkyns	
Northington . .	John Sealy	Madeira & Bombay
Admiral Pocock .	Thomas Riddell	} Bombay
New Ship . . .	Richard Hall	
New Ship . . .	John Hasell	
Greenwich . . .	Robert Carr	
Northumberland .	John Mitford	Bombay & China
True Briton . .	[.....]	

42. We have appointed the following Gentlemen to be the Secret Committee for the ensuing Season. Vizt. Sir George Colebrooke Bart Chairman, Peregrine Cust Esqr. Deputy, Henry Crabb Boulton, John Harrison, John Manship, Frederick Pigou, John Purling and Lawrence Sullivan Esquires, who are empowered to take such Precautions as they shall Judge necessary for the safety of Our Outward and Homeward bound Ships whose Orders or those of any three of them are to be Obeyed by all to whom they are directed.

43. Notwithstanding the directions in the 23d Paragraph of this Letter, as it has since appeared that the Commanding officer of His Majesty's Naval Forces in the East Indies has been provided with a House, you are therefore to accomodate Sir John Lindsay or

the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships for the time being whilst he shall reside at your Presidency with an handsome and convenient one at our Expence as has been usual.

We are

Your Loving Friends

G. Colebrooke/Pere Cust/Hy. Crabb Boulton/John Harrison/  
Fredk. Pigou/J. Purling/J. Manship/John Robert/Peter  
DuCane Junr./Daniel Wier/W. G. Freeman/Chas. Bod-  
dam/John Motteux/George Dempster/Henry Fletcher/  
Ben. Booth/George Cuming/Robt. Gregory/Wm. James/  
L. Sullivan.

London 15th September 1769.

*Enclosure 1*

EXTRACTS OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONERS  
DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1769 RELATING TO THE  
PRESIDENCY AT FORT WILLIAM IN BENGAL

2. In order to facilitate and effectuate the great purpose of Peace and Tranquility, we are of opinion, it may be prudent to make known to the Powers of India, that it is by no means the Intention of the Company, to encroach upon their Neighbours, or to acquire an extension of Dominion by conquest; and that it is their determined Resolution, always to adhere to, and keep inviolable the Faith of Treaties; and to confine their views to the Revenues of Bengal, and their present Possessions. We cannot better express our Sentiments respecting these great Objects, than by refering you to our General Letter to Fort St George of the 13th May 1768, which runs in these words: "The Dewannee of Bengal, Bahar and Orixia, with the Possessions we hold in those Provinces, are the utmost Limits of our Views on that side of India; On the Coast, the Protection of the Carnatic, and the possessions of the Circars, free from all Engagements to support the Subah of the Decan, or even without the Circars, preserving only Interest enough over any Country Power, who may hold them, to keep the French from settling in them. And on the Bombay side, the Dependencies thereof, the Possession of Salset, Bassein, and the Castle of Surat. The Protection of these, are easily within the reach of our power and may mutually support each other, without any Country Alliance whatever. If we pass these bounds, we shall be led on from

one acquisition to another, till we shall find no security but in the subjection of the whole, which by dividing your Force, might lose us the whole; and end in our extirpation from Hindostan."

3. In entering into any Treaties with Country Powers, We desire your particular care and attention that they be so framed, as neither immediately nor eventually if possible, to engage the Company in any disputes between those Powers.

4. If the obstacles to a solid & honourable Peace, should be found insurmountable, we recommend to you, in the prosecution of the War, the settling and directing the operations of the three Presidencies, upon one uniform plan of Action; always bearing in mind, the preservation and security of Bengal, is, of all others the most important object and Consideration to the Company.

6. The two Provinces, of Allahabad and Corah, must be preserved to the King, as they are guaranteed by the Company; unless an equivalent can be obtained in lieu thereof, by way of Revenue, or otherwise, to the King's Satisfaction.

7. When Peace is restored, we think no greater Military Force should be kept at Allahabad, [that] shall be thought necessary to protect the King's Person, but We do not mean to embark in any Expedition on his account at the Hazard of our Troops, and possibly of our most valuable Possessions.

8. In the Negotiations of Peace with the Moratta Powers, we direct you to be particularly attentive to the obtaining if it be practicable, the Islands of Salset and Bassein under a solid Right and Title.

9. We desire you will, without delay, return to the King the blank Phirmaund of the Decan, as being a Grant improperly obtained, by Influence over the King; and which must give a general Alarm to the Indian Powers.

10. We authorize you to disavow, on the part of the Company, any Application made to the King for a Grant of the Hindooput Rajah's Dominions, under pretence of Indemnification for the Expences of our Troops kept at Allahabad, or for any other Consideration.

13. We desire and enjoin you, to make strict and speedy enquiry into the Proceedings of the Courts of Justice throughout our Settlements; and if any extraordinary Powers have interfered, to interrupt the course and Administration of Justice, it will be your duty to correct without delay, all such Abuses; that every Question of Property may be fairly and honestly decided, according to the Rules of Law and Justice.

14 In particular we direct, that the practice of with holding, or taking Five p Cent upon the recovery of Debts in any Court of Justice whatsoever, for the use of the Company, or on any other pretence, be totally abolished

15 We much wish to obtain Security for the Properties and Persons of the Natives, and to that end we desire you will make full enquiry into the Nature and Constitution of the Courts of Zemindary and Cutchary, or other Courts, where ever our Possessions or Revenues extend, and that you will endeavour to reform all such abuses as shall have found their way into them, to the Oppression of the Natives, and we desire you will use the most effectual means for rendering their Properties less precarious, and their Possessions more permanent

16 In case the Constitutions of the above mentioned Courts shall be found defective, we desire you will use your best endeavours to obtain all proper and necessary Reformatations and Alterations therein, or if you shall judge it expedient, you are to procure Phirmaunds from the King, or the Country Powers, for Erecting and Establishing new Courts of Judicature, respecting both Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction

17 You will see by the Treaty with the Nabob that a very large sum is to be paid, in Consideration of many Articles of Expence therein enumerated, in Case the same should thereafter be thought necessary for the support of the Nabob's Dignity This affords an opening to you, to enquire into, and we desire you will retrench such Articles of Expence, as shall appear to you to be grosly (*sic*) unnecessary and not tending to the use, Dignity, or Honor of the Nabob And we direct, that you will also enquire, whether the Sums already issued, in Consequence of this part of the Treaty, have been fairly and duly applied, and if any gross Misapplication shall be found to have been made, that you will endeavour to obtain Restitution and satisfaction from the Persons concerned therein, and further we direct that you will take effectual care for the future, that the sums to be paid for the above purposes, be subject to no deductions or Allowances, but such as shall appear absolutely necessary

18 The immense Salaries and Allowances represented to us to be paid to Mahomed Reza Cawn, must be another Subject of your Consideration and Regulation, and we hope you will be able to reduce them into moderate Bounds

20 We also most heartily wish to see the Practice and Usage totally discontinued, which prevailed under the Moorish Government, of Confiscating the Estates and Properties of deceased Persons, who had at any Time been employed in the Collection of the Public

Revenues, or the Service of the Government, under the pretence of Frauds and Abuses committed by them in the Execution of their Offices. These Acts of Oppression have taught the Natives to hoard and secrete their Money and Effects to the great detriment and injury of the public. As no Man's Property ought to be invaded, infringed, or affected, but by due Course of Law, we hope you will be able to procure relief against these Acts of Violence and Injustice.

21. Not only the Courts of Justice ought to be open to Persons of all Ranks and Degrees, but the Channels of Trade should be in every respect free, and unrestrained; no undue Influence or exertion of power should be used over the Manufacturers, for by fair means only, we wish to have the preference of the Markets obtained from them.

22. Every degree of Restraint is contrary to the fundamental principles of Trade and Commerce, which therefore are found to thrive the most among free People; for the Number of Manufacturers will always increase in proportion to the Encouragement and protection they meet with.

23. As the Company's Revenues can be remitted to Europe, but through the Channel of Trade and as the procuring of Raw Silk for the Manufacture of Great Britain, is now become a great National Object; your best attention is required to that Article of Investment, not only for the procuring the greatest quantity of the Material that can be obtained, but by giving Encouragement to the Manufacturers, to send it to Europe duly and properly prepared for the British Markets that we may be able not only to vie with, but to obtain a preference of the Foreign Imported Silk.

24. In the Articles of Ophium and Raw Silk, we not only desire your attention to the Improvement and increase of them, but that you will give all suitable Encouragements to those concerned in their growth and production; not by an increase of Wages, if that can possibly be avoided, but by moderate Bounties, which seem to us the much more eligible method. In Considering this point, you will direct your Enquiries, whether the District of Rungpoor, which is a Place of Security, and Tranquility, may not be very successfully appropriated to the growth of the Mulberry Tree. And as we are making a settlement at Balambangan, where great Quantities of Ophium will be vended, we desire, that after allowing a reasonable Share of this Article to the Dutch, you will secure for the use of the Company as much as they will want.

25. The Scarcity of Silver being represented to us in the strongest Terms by our Servants abroad; it will be necessary for you to investigate this important subject as closely as possible; first



ascertaining whether the Fact be generally true over the Provinces, or confined to Calcutta only, and whether it be owing to the Quantity exported, or resulting from the fatal Consequences of the Gold Coinage, and having found the true cause of this Grievance, you must use your Endeavours to apply the proper Remedies The principal one, We apprehend, will be, the abolishing the annual Diminution of the Value of the rupees, which We have so often recommended, but without Effect, to our servants

26 We desire you will pay a strict regard and attention to prevent Monopolies of any kind being carried on under the Influence or authority of the English Name, more particularly in the necessaries of Life, and in the Article of Cotton, and other raw materials of Manufacture We mention Cotton in particular, because we are informed, there has been a Monopoly of that Article, in which the Influence and authority of Mahomed Reza Cawn has been improperly exerted over the Zemindars, to oblige them to buy it, If you find such Oppressions have been exercised, We direct that upon due Proof, before you, all Persons concerned therein, in our Employ, must be dismissed

27 We enjoin you to enquire into such Abuses as have been committed or Practised, in crying (*sic*) on and continuing an exclusive Trade, in the Articles of Salt, Beetle Nut, and Tobacco, contrary to the express Directions and Orders transmitted by the Court of Directors We direct you to enquire into the reasons why such Orders have been disobeyed or neglected, and it is our intention, that those Trades be laid open to all Persons, as well Natives as Europeans, and that English Subjects be permitted to Trade therein, only upon the same footing, and under the same Duties & Restrictions as Natives, or other Subjects do, you will take particular care, that these Duties or Regulations be not evaded, under pretence of any Respect due unto or the Influence of the English Flag It excites our utmost Indignation to find, that great Fortunes have been acquired by Persons in our Service, in Trades carried on in direct opposition to our express Injunctions and Commands, and as we cannot too severely punish such contumacious Practices, we desire you will endeavour to discover the principal Actors and Abettors in these acts of disobedience, and upon due proof that you will not only dismiss them from our service, but that you will take all legal Measures to obtain satisfaction to the Company in the Courts of Justice in India, and in Cases where the Evidence may not be found sufficient, or effectual, to procure Redress and Satisfaction, by the strict Rules of Law there, that you will transmit to us the fullest, and most explicit proofs of the Facts, which you are capable of Obtaining

28. We direct and enjoin your strict enquiry into the Enormous increase of the Expences of the Company's Military Establishments; more particularly into the Contract for supplying the Army, and those for Buildings, or repairing Fortifications; It would be a great Irregularity and deserving of the severest Censure, if it should be found that any of the Company's Servants have availed themselves of the Stations they hold, to procure these Contracts for themselves or for their own benefit directly or indirectly; or that it should be the province of any person concerned in these Contracts, to audit the Accounts relative thereto; we expect your particular attention in Order to procure full and effectual reformation in these particulars.

29. You are fully empowered by the Companys Commission, to superintend and regulate the Collection of their Revenues; to put them on a just and honourable footing deserves your peculiar Care & attention; whatever abuses, Extortions, and Oppressions the Inhabitants and Tenants have been exposed to, from the exaction of extraordinary Contributions, which always tend to impoverish the Country, or from any other specious Causes or pretences, we strictly enjoin you to reform, and for the future effectually to prevent; to this end, it seems to us a prudent and desirable measure, that instead of the residence of only one Person at the Durbar, to superintend the Important Business of managing and adjusting the Revenues, there should be a Resident, with a Council or proper Assistants at the Chief Places of Collection, who should have power to conduct and regulate the mode and Charges of Collection, and reform all Abuses therein, and to whom the Complaints of the Inhabitants may at all times find free access.

30. For effectuating the above purposes you will take proper measures for regulating and restraining, and if found necessary to prohibit the trading by any Servant employed in the Collection of the Revenues, within the province where he shall be stationed, and that no Person so employed in any Character or Station whatsoever, be permitted to receive any Presents or Gratuity, under any Colour or Pretence, or derive any Advantage directly or indirectly from the Collection of Revenues; but they must depend solely on appointment you think fit to make for them, which will be suitable to their Rank in the Service.

32. We are sorry to take notice, that precise and regular intelligence hath never been communicated from time to time of the French Force in the East Indies; such intelligence should be trasmitted home by every ship, and no cost should be spared, in all parts, in order to obtain the most perfect intelligence of the proceedings of Foreign Companys, not grounded on surmises, but

on information of Matters of Facts, you must not fail to mention the arrival of every French and Foreign Ship coming to any Port of the East Indies, particularly if they are ships of Force, and in doing this, you must not omit to send us as far as you are able, the Number of Men and Guns, the Burden, the [Names] of the ships, and the Commanders, the Uniform of the Troops, the Names of the Officers of such Troops, and what number of Officers and Men are at the several Foreign Settlements in India, together with the State of their Fortifications

33 Upon the return of the Army from the Mysore Country into the Carnatic, we find that the Field Deputies are come back to the Presidency at Madras We cannot but disapprove of their Original appointment, which could have no other Tendency, but to impede the operations of the Campaign & give rise to very mischievous disputes betwixt the Commander in Chief and the Deputy by which we fear the Public Service has suffered essentially We hope our Troops will not on any Pretence be carried so far from our settlements again, by which the Extraordinary Expences of our Army is swelled to an enormous height, but our Opinion is, that when the Company has made choice of a proper Person to be a Commander in Chief, all trust and confidence should be reposed in him, to direct the Plans and operations of the Campaign and we desire with a View to Economy, in the disbursements of Army Expences the supplies of the Army, or in settling the Contribution to arise out of the Enemy's Country, that reference should be had to the Orders given by the Court of Directors under date of the 31st of March 1761 Para 165

35 The Negligence in keeping the Company's Books in the Subordinate Settlements at Bengal in a regular manner, and in not punctually transmitting Copies of them to the Court of Directors, has been long matter of Complaint against our Servants We desire you will procure all necessary regulations in this respect and that you will discharge from our Service all Persons, who shall be found culpable of Notorious Negligence and disobedience of our Orders concerning this matter

36 A perfect Survey of the Company's Lands we think would be of great Utility, and we hope you will be able to procure the most accurate plans & Surveys, as well of the Duannee Lands, as of the Company's other Possessions, that can possibly be had

45 At all times when you deliberate and Consult upon the Subject of Marine operations and Expeditions, where the Station and Situation of the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships shall render it practicable we desire and direct, that you will obtain his

Advice and assistance; and that you will concert with him all such Measures as shall be necessary for carrying any Maritime Plan or Purpose into Execution. Also In the Execution of any Plan of Negotiation, or any other important Object, where the assistance of the Commander of his Majesty's Ships shall appear the most probable means of accelerating, or bringing the same to Perfection We doubt not but you will think it necessary, and we particularly desire and direct, that you will give him the fullest and most ample Powers for that purpose.

*Enclosure 2*

DECREE OF THE KING'S COUNCIL OF STATE  
CONCERNING THE INDIA TRADE, OF THE  
13TH AUGUST 1769

*Extracted from the Registers of the Council of State.*

The Consultations of the General Assemblies of the Proprietors of the India Company of the 14th & 29th March the 3d April and 8th of this Month, together with the Memorials and accounts of the Situation of the said Company drawn up by the Deputies chosen by the said Proprietors in their Assembly of the 14th March, in conjunction with the Syndicks and Directors, having been represented to the King and Council; His Majesty has observed that the Company has not yet made any dispositions to enable them to provide for the Isles of France and Bourbon, and to fulfill the obligation they are under for the not laying open their Trade to India That this default does not proceed from any negligence of the Syndicks and Directors, who have not sufficient Funds to carry on the Trade; but that from the first Assembly of the 14th March, the Proprietors, charged with the state of their affairs, did not present any Methods admissible for the procuring themselves the necessary Funds to answer the Expences of fitting out the Ships for this Year, till the day of the last Assembly, wherein a Memorial containing the different Plans for borrowing Money was read, for the Examination whereof Deputies were appointed; Upon the said Memorial's being presented to the King, and being examined by His Council, He has judged that, of the Three Plans for the borrowing Money, the Two first cannot be admitted, and that the Examination which the third might deserve together with the Oppositions it might meet with from the Proprietors, the discussions it might occasion, and lastly it's Execution, in case it should be judged admissible, would draw on such delay and take up the time necessary for the Dispatches to

India, in so much that the Colonies of the Isles of France and Bourbon and His Majesty's Subjects dispersed in the several Factories in India might run the risk of wanting Subsistence, and the most necessary Articles of Consumption, and that a total Interruption of Trade to the French Nation in India might result therefrom;—For which it being necessary to provide; Hear the Report of the Sieur Maynon d' Invau Counsellor in Ordinary, and King's Council, Comptroller General of the Finances; The King, being in Council, has Ordered and Orders as follows.

*Article 1st*

The Exercise of the Exclusive Privilege of the India Company to the Isles of France and Bourbon, to India, China and in the Seas beyond the Cape of Good Hope shall be and continue Suspended, until it shall be ordered otherwise by His Majesty.

*Article 2d*

All the places and Factories in India shall continue to be governed as heretofore by the Councils, Junr Merchants and Servants of the Company as his Majesty has confirmed, so far as may be necessary, in all their Functions, with the same Rights, Privileges and authority as they have enjoyed till now.

*Article 3d*

All his Majesty's Subjects may freely Trade to the several parts of India, China and in the Seas beyond the Cape of Good Hope; may Trade thither on their own Ships in all goods, Silver and Merchandizes & return their Ships to France loaden with the Goods and Merchandizes of India, China, and of all the Countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, provided they take out Passports, which shall be delivered to them Gratis and without Charge, which shall contain the Names of those who fit the Ships out, the Captains and Ships, the Burthen, and the Places they shall be dispatched from. The Captains of the said Ships shall be obliged to shew the said Passports to the Commanding Officers at the Isles of France and Bourbon and to the Councils and Companys Servants in the several Factories where they shall stop to refresh. Moreover the said Persons who fit the Ships out and the Captains shall be obliged to conform to the particular Regulations which His Majesty shall judge proper for the use of this Trade.

*Article 4th*

The Adventurers who shall be desirous of obtaining the said

Passports, shall, for this purpose address their Memorials, signed by themselves, to the Secretary of State for the Marine Department, or to the Syndicks and Directors of the India Company, the said Memorials shall be immediately communicated to the Deputies of the Trading Cities at Paris, in order, by the said Deputies to receive, in the Ports, such orders and instructions as they shall judge necessary, and afterwards to give their Advice upon the said Memorials, which Advice shall be annexed to the Original of the said Passports.

*Article 5th*

The Adventurers in the Trade to India shall not make the Return of the Ships and Merchandizes proceedings from the said Trade, to any Port but L' Orient; In case they shall, by Accident, be obliged to put into any other Port of the Kingdom, they shall not unload their Goods there, but they shall be obliged to come to the said Port of L'Orient and if the Ship is not in a condition to go to Sea, the Goods shall be deposited in a Warehouse, under the care of the Officers of the Revenues or Farms, from whence they shall be Transported to L' Orient under Security, or with a Cocket.

*Article 6th*

All the Merchandizes proceeding from the Trade of India shall be Subject, on Entrance into the Kingdom to the Duties which His Majesty in Council shall impose, which Duties shall be paid independent of those heretofore established.

*Article 7th*

The Ships, Provisions, and Merchandizes that shall be destined for the India Trade shall have all the advantages Exemptions and Immunities granted for the Trade of the Colonies in America, by fulfilling the Formalities prescribed by the Regulations, and particularly by the Letters Patent of the Month of April 1717;—And the Armaments shall not be made but in the Port of L' Orient and in those permitted for the Trade of the said Colonies.

*Article 8th*

The present Syndicks and Directors shall continue to Transact, as heretofore, all the affairs of the India Company His Majesty reserving to himself Power to make such Decrees as shall be for the Interest of the Proprietors, after the Deputies (who by their Resolution of the 8th Inst have charged themselves with that Business) shall have made a Report of their Observations. Done in

the Council of State of the King, his Majesty being present, held at Compeigne the 13th August 1769

(Signed) Phelypeaux

*Enclosure 3*

**DECREE OF THE KING'S COUNCIL OF STATE  
CONTAINING RULES FOR THE INDIA TRADE  
OF THE 6TH SEPTEMBER 1769**

*Extracted from the Registers of the Council of State*

The King in Council having ordered Publication to be made of his Decree of the 13th August last, whereby his Majesty suspended the Exercise of the Exclusive Privilege of the India Company, permitted all his Subjects to trade freely to the different parts of India, China and in the Seas beyond the Cape of Good Hope and reserved to himself the power of making such Rules as should be thought proper for the management of this Trade, and to settle the Duties that the said merchandizes from the Isles of France and Bourbon should be subject to on entrance into the Kingdom, His Majesty having also ordered information to be given of the Representations that have been made to him concerning the Restrictions which the dispositions in the 4th Article of the said Decree of the 13th of August last might occasion to the Freedom of this Trade and thus being willing (in order that all his Subjects might partake thereof) to dispense with the Forms laid down in the said article insomuch that the necessary Passports for the Security of the Navigators to India may be granted Gratis and without delay to all those who shall request them, His Majesty being willing at the same time to give the City of L'Orient marks of his protection and facilitate the Armaments for India thereby granting to those who shall fit out Ships at that place the enjoyment of the privileges and exemptions of the duties which have been formerly granted to the India Company on the Merchandizes and Effects belonging to the Armaments Being willing to provide for these matters—Hear the Report of the Sieur Mayon d'Invauc Council in Ordinary and King's Council, Comptroller General of the Finances—The King being in his Council has ordered and orders as follows

*Article 1st*

The Managers of the India Company shall deliver Gratis to those who shall fit out ships for India and for the Seas beyond the

Cape of Good Hope, Passports, which shall contain the names of the Owners the Captains & Ships, the Tonnage and Places from whence they shall be dispatched and those of their first destination which Passports shall be speedily expedited at the Request of the Merchants or Persons who fit the ship out, without Refusal under any pretence and without being Subject to any Formality: his Majesty derogating in this respect to the dispositions of the 4th Article of the said Decree of Council of the 13th of August last.

*Article 2d*

The Captains of the said Ships shall be obliged to shew the said Passports to the Commanding Officer of the Isles of France & Bourbon & to the Councils and Servants of the different Factories where they shall put in for refreshment, who shall be obliged to lend them all assistance and protection; By virtue of the said Passports they shall have power to Sail in all the Seas and Trade on all the Coasts and in all the Countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope with the same Rights and Privileges as the Company's Ships have enjoyed without molestation or restraint in their Navigations under any pretence whatever.

*Article 3d*

Twenty four hours after the arrival in France an exact declaration shall be made, conformable to the Rules and Ordinances, to the Officers for the Farms of all the Goods they shall bring from India & China to L'Orient by the Ships, and for private account the said Goods shall be examined and Certified and shall be deposited in the Magazines of the said Port of L'Orient.

*Article 4th*

Those Goods whose Consumption in the Kingdom is prohibited shall be deposited, as formerly in a particular Warehouse, under two different Keys, one of which shall remain in the hands of the proper Officer of the Farms, and the other in those of the Commissioners or Overseers for the Persons who fit the Ships out.

*Article 5th*

All the Goods produced from the Trade to India shall have the benefit of lying Six Months in Warehouse in the Port of L'Orient, those for home Consumption shall pay the Duties formerly due according to the Rules, those for Exportation shall be exempt from the said duties, and shall pay only those of Indult setforth in the 9th article of this Decree, the licensed Goods may be transported



by land as heretofore, the Prohibited Goods, as well as the painted and printed Cloths, White Cotton Cloths, Muslins, Handkerchiefs and Dimities may only be exported

*Article 6th*

White Cotton Cloths, Muslins, Handkerchiefs and Dimities shall continue to be marked and stamped with the Tickets and Leads of the Company

*Article 7th*

The Goods produced from the said Trade may be sent from L Orient to Nantz and shall have the same advantage of being six Months in Warehouse to be reckoned from the day they shall have been transported from L Orient Prohibited Goods and Painted Cloths Cotton Muslins, Handkerchiefs and Dimities may be sent only by Sea to Nantz and Exported from thence with regard to other kind of Goods they may be sent from L Orient to Nantz and transported thence as well by Sea as Land, if the prescribed Forms and Rules in such cases be observed

*Article 8th*

The Goods shall not be taken out of the said Warehouses without previous notice, the proper Officer of the Farms shall have liberty to view the Goods during the 6 Months they are in Warehouse as often as he shall think fit Those that shall have been secreted shall be seized, or the value of them and notice given of their Forfeiture with the Penalties incurred by the Rules

*Article 9th*

All the Goods produced by the Trade to India and China shall be subject on entrance into the kingdom to a duty of Indult of 5 p Cent upon their value in France, and those of the growth of the Isles of France and Bourbon to 3 p Cent likewise on their value in France—The said duties shall be paid before the said Goods shall be delivered out of the Warehouses where they shall have been deposited whether they shall be for exportation or home Consumption

*Article 10th*

The Owners of the said Goods may sell or dispose of them how and when they think proper, either, by Private or Public Sale of which they may give notice in the Form and on the Conditions that shall be agreeable to them

*Article 11th*

All the Goods, Merchandizes and Effects destined for Port L'Orient shall continue to enjoy the Exemptions mentioned in the 43d Article of the Edict of August 1764 and by the 16th, 17th and 18th Articles of the Letters Patent of the Month of March 1696 in the same manner as the India Company have enjoyed them The Decree of Council of the 13th of August last shall be executed in all it's Forms where it is not derogatory to the present Decree. Done in the King's Council of State, His Majesty being present held at Versailles the 6th of September 1769.

(Signed) Phelypeaux

## 20

## LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1769

*New writers and Cadets for Bengal—Eyre Coote appointed Commander-in-Chief—instructions concerning trade of the French in Bengal.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. His Majesty's Frigate Aurora carried our last General Letter of the 15th of September, Duplicate whereof accompanys this and also the Triplicate of our Letter of 30th June the Aurora sailed on her Voyage from Spithead 30th Sept.

2. The Stag Frigate and Hawke Sloop under the Command of Sir John Lindsay, whom we before advised were sent principally with a view of restoring our affairs in the Gulph of Persia, also sailed from Spithead the 29th September.

3. The Ship True Briton mentioned in our last Letter to have been taken up for a voyage to the East Indies, we have Consigned to Bombay.

4. The Houghton as before advised is Consign'd to the Coast and Bay, such parts of her Cargo as are designed for your Presidency, will appear by the enclosed Invoice and Bill of Lading, to which you are referred and on her Arrival in Bengal it is our direction, that you lose no time in unloading her Cargo and giving her an early dispatch for Europe.

5. In our Letter of the 15th September we informed you the

Northumberland was Consigned to Bombay and China, and in order that she may carry a valuable Cargo thither we direct that you assist our Presidency of Bombay as effectually as possible for that purpose.

6. We shall order our Presidency of Bombay to send the Worcester to Bengal as soon as she is unladen and received on board a suitable Cargo of Cotton and other Goods proper for your Market, and we further direct that unless you should require an additional Ship to bring your Investment to Europe, you dispatch her back to Bombay with Salt Petre in order to assist the Tonnage that may be wanted to compleat the Ladings of the Ships bound to that Presidency.

7. Should either the Northumberland or Worcester be disabled from proceeding the Voyages assigned them, after their arrival at Bombay, we have directed that the Admiral Pocock is to have the preference of being employed in the room of such disabled Ship.

8. As to Surplus Tonnage that may be laden, you must have regard to the number of Ships you may have to dispatch and make as equal a distribution thereof as possible.

9. The Council of Supra Cargoes appointed to conduct our affairs in China for the Ships proceeding thither this Season are Messrs Alexander Hume, Stephen De Visme, Francis Wood, Benjamin Torin, Edward Phipps, Thomas Bevan, William Harrison, Matthew Raper, John Bradby Blake and James Bradshaw and Messrs Hume, Phipps Wood, Bevan, Harrison, Raper, Blake and Bradshaw are to be our Residents in China in 1771, and we have also directed that Mr Phipp's rank in the Council shall after the departure from China of Messrs De Visme and Torin be next to Mr Hume.

10. As we judge it proper you should be informed of the Supplies we intend for the China Trade from the different resources in England and India, you are hereby advised that the Fifteen Ships consigned thither from hence this Season as likewise the Lord Camden expected at Canton from Bombay in 1770 are to be furnished with their Cargos home, from a Stock amounting to about £600,000 which will consist of about £225,000 in Silver, the Cargos to be sent from hence and such as on the lowest Estimate may be expected to be Consigned thither from our several Presidences (*sic*).

11. The occasion of our sending so large a supply of Treasure from hence for the China Market as £225,000 arises from the little expectation we have according to the Advices received this year from the Coast and Bay of the ability of the three Presidencies sending

Treasure thither the Season of 1770 or of the little probability of any Surplus Stock remaining in China after the Ships of 1769 were provided for.

12. Upon the principle of the foregoing Estimate we have directed our Supra Cargos that the amount of each of the said Sixteen Ships Cargos should not exceed the value of £30,000 in Tea, China Ware and Nankeen Cloth, by which restriction a Balance of £115,400 will be left for next Season's Stock.

13. Nevertheless we are strongly induced to expect that our Supra Cargos will have a larger Stock on hand according to the Directions given to the three Presidencies by the Lapwing in June last for the unlimited receipt into their respective Treasuries of Cash for Bills to be drawn upon us, the value whereof we positively ordered should be assigned to supply our Supra Cargos with Specie for the extension of the China Investment if they shall in consequence be furnished with the amount of £160,000 from India or can draw on us for that Sum they are then to invest the additional Sum of £10,000 for each Ship in Raw Silk and in proportion for a lesser Sum so that a Surplus Stock shall always remain of £90,000 to £100,000 for the next year, but as we deem that too small a Sum, it is our further Order that if our China Council shall from the Indian Remittances or by their own Draughts be possessed of more than £160,000 we would have the Surplus Stock increased to £200,000 and if it shall exceed that Sum they may encrease their Investment of China Raw Silk so far as that the Cargo of each Ship shall not exceed the value of £50,000 observing they are not to send Wrought Silks on any account.

14. For the increase of the China Stock if the assistance from Bengal and Fort St George should not answer our Expectations we have empowered the China Council for the year 1770 to receive into our Cash upon the Terms and Conditions mentioned in our General Letter of the 11th November 1768, such a sum for Bills of Exchange to be drawn upon us at the rate of 5s/3d the Weighty Dollar, as shall with the other Resources they may have on hand enable them to load all the Ships and leave an ample Ballance for the Service of the year 1771 on the footing and according to the Directions given in the foregoing Paragraph.

15. We expect you pay the most strict attention to our standing Order in our beforementioned Letter of the 11th November 1768 concerning the Provision of as large a quantity of Merchandize as you can possibly procure proper for the Canton Market.

16. As to the Sums that we have permitted the Commanders

of our Freightred Ships to pay into your Cash for Certificates as also those we shall receive into our Treasury here for Bills on you or the Sums the Owners of our Freightred Ships are permitted to pay in here or receive in India for the use of the Ships you are hereby informed, they are at the same Rates and on the terms and conditions mentioned in our General Letter of the 11th November 1768 Paras 114 & 117 and those directions are to continue in force till our further Orders

17 Having thought proper that the Medicines and Drugs exported this Season shall be provided by the Apothecaries Company, Mr Samuel Hannay and Mr James Bogle French you must in the remarks you make on those Articles be so particular, as that we may know whom to blame in case of failure in Quantity or Quality

18 We cannot at present give you the account of our intended Export to the several parts of India and China this Season but we intend to comply with your Indents in as full a manner as the Tonnage for your side of India will admit

19 In order to carry into execution the alterations we have directed to be made in the mode of Collecting the Revenues at your Presidency so as to answer our Expectations as well as those of the Public, we have appointed Fortyfive Writers for your Presidency who will proceed on the Ships of this Season their names and Rank you will be acquainted with by a future opportunity

20 The Persons who will be licensed by us to proceed to or remain in the East Indies this Season as Free Merchants Surgeons or Mariners will be noticed by Lists in the Ships Packets

21 By this and the other Ships of the Season we shall send ninetyfive Cadets for your Military whose names and Rank will appear by Lists in the Packets

22 Mr John Clements appointed a Cadet for your Presidency in the Season of 1767 and was prevented from going then by an ill state of Health having requested permission to proceed in that Station we have accordingly given him leave, but to rank next below John Meredith the youngest Cadet of last Season

23 We are to inform you that the General Court by Ballot on the 16th of August last came to a Resolution 'That the Ballance unpaid to the Claimants of the Restitution Fund, be paid in Bengal as soon as the State of the Company's Treasury will admit

24 When we consider that by this Resolution a discretionary Power is vested in us to pay this Money when the state of the

Company's Treasury will admit, we don't think ourselves warranted in the present State of the Company's affairs in India to give orders for the payment of so large a sum this Season, and therefore we positively direct that no Money be paid on this Account, 'till our further Orders.

25. We have taken into consideration the Conduct of Mr George Bright, and approve the Censure you passed upon it as such improper Marriages ought always to be discouraged; but as his Youth pleads strongly in his behalf, we are willing to pass over this Error and that his Suspension be taken off, and we direct that you call him before you, give him a very severe Reprimand and acquaint him that we expect he will be very circumspect in his future conduct, constantly paying a strict Obedience to the Orders of his Superiors.

26. From the repeated experience the Company have had of the abilities of Colonel Eyre Coote and the present critical Situation of their affairs on the Coast of Choromandel, we have been induced Unanimously to appoint that Gentleman Commander in Chief of our Forces and have given him a Commission similar to that of General Lawrence, the same having been communicated to the King, His Majesty has been graciously pleased at our Request to give him a Brevet with the rank of Major General in the East Indies.

27. In our Letter of the 15th of September last we laid down the Conduct to be observed on the suspension of the French Company's Commerce, you now receive Copy of the Decree of the 6th of that Month, for the regulation of the open Trade from France to the East Indies, we are since informed that though every means has been used to prevail on Individuals to equip some Vessels, only four small ones, the largest of which is not of 250 Tons are now fitting out for the Islands, and that it is not probable any Vessel will go from France to any part of the Peninsula of India; one of the Company's Ships fitted at the Government's Expence is freighted on Private account for Canton, and a Treaty is in agitation for another on much the same terms.

28. It appears that these Traders and particularly the concerned in the abovementioned Vessels destined for the Islands, if they shall not be able to procure Cargoes from the Establishments of their own Nation in India, expect to be supplied from other Quarters; you are therefore earnestly exhorted and required, to exert your utmost vigilance and every legal authority you are invested with, to disappoint their Expectations, by taking every prudent and vigorous measure for preventing all Persons under your jurisdiction from giving assistance to these Private Traders, by providing them, or

furnishing them with, Money or any kind of Goods whatever for their European Commerce to the Prejudice of our Investments It is not our intention to interfere in any shape with regard to their Trade from Port to Port in India, and for the more effectually answering the ends of such Prohibition, we specially recommend it to you to keep the most watchful eye on all Exports from the Presidency, and every Settlement Subordinates to you, and to transmit an account of the returned Cargoes of such Ships and by whom they are provided, and any of our Servants who shall be found directly or indirectly aiding or assisting contrary to the abovementioned Orders are absolutely to be dismissed and sent to England by the first Conveyance, in case of the like disobedience by Free Merchants or any others under our protection, send them home in the same manner, and with respect to the Natives you are to do every thing you can consistently with the Treaties subsisting between the two Nations to prevent their transgressing in this instance, We are peremptory in these Orders, inasmuch as every indulgence has been given to our Servants and others in remitting their Money home at an advantageous Exchange

We are

Your Loving Friends

G Colebrooke/Pere Cust/Hy Crabb Boulton/John Harrison/  
Fredk Pigou/J Purling/J Manship/John Roberts/Peter Du  
Cane Junr/Daniel Wier/W G Freeman/Chas Boddam/  
John Motteux/George Dempster/Henry Fletcher/Ben  
Booth/George Cuming/Robt Gregory/Wm James/L  
Sullivan

London

the 10th Novr 1769

## 21

### LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1769

*Distribution of Madeira Wine—intended exports.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 By the Houghton which Sailed from Spithead the 14th November, We wrote a short Letter, under date of 10th of that Month, Duplicate of which, and Triplicate of our Letter of the 15th of September are enclosed

2. This Letter is forwarded by the Europa consigned first to Madeira to receive on board Thirtyeight Pipes of Wine from Messrs Chambers, Hiccox and Denyer and Thirty Seven from Messrs Scott & Co the Invoices of which and the other necessary Papers relating thereto, as also of a like quantity which is to be forwarded on the Morse, will be sent you by our Correspondents; in like manner those at Theneriffe will send the Vouchers for One hundred Pipes which are to be Consigned to you in equal proportions on the Lord Mansfield and Egmont.

3. In regard to the distribution of the Wines you are to follow our former Orders, as also in advising us of their quality and leakage.

4. We would have you send Five Pipes of each of the said Wines to Fort Marlbro by the first good Conveyance, and you are also to send annually three Pipes of Madeira Wine to St Helena to be Invoiced agreeable to the directions given last Year.

5. From the General dislike that seems to prevail at all our Settlements to the Vidonia Wine & from the loss that is likely to arise from the Sale of it we do not intend to send any more than what was ordered last year for the Ships of this Season, unless you should alter your opinion in this respect.

6. The following is a general view of our intended Exports to the several parts of India and China in the course of the present Season vizt

*For Bengal*

Cloth 1378 Bales, Long Ells 135 Bales of Twenty pieces each Broad Long Ells 165 Bales of ten Pieces each and Four Bales of Sundries; Lead 330 Tons, Copper 350 Tons, Iron 200 Tons, Gunpowder 770 Barrels, Small Arms 132 Chests; Madeira Wine 150 Pipes and Vidonia Wine 100 Pipes.

*Fort St. George*

Cloth 279 Bales, Long Ells 30 Bales of Twenty Pieces each and 6 Bales of Sundries, Lead 120 Tons, Copper 200 Tons, Iron 200 Tons, Steel 5 Tons, Small Arms 940 Chests, Gunpowder 1,200 Barrels of 60 lb. each, Madeira and Vidonia Wine 100 Pipes of each.

The Bales will go on the Princess Royal & Prime.

*Bombay*

For the Bombay Market, Cloth 1353 Bales Long Ells, 197 Bales of Twenty Pieces each and 24 Bales of Sundries, Lead 250 Tons,





George Bogle/Robert Adair/Robert Tomlinson/George Hodgson/Richard Griffith/Sir John Doyly Bart/David Burges/Thomas Hitt Pettit/Alexander Logie/James Peter Auriol/George Cuming/John Carmichael/William Bruere/John Fydell/John Yeo (dead)/John Haldane/Francis Fowke/Henry Lodge/George Richard Foley/John Hannay/Charles Dempster (dead)/Robert Craufurd/William Taylor/Nathaniel Middleton/Isaac Baugh/Richard Johnson/John Evelyn/John Kneller/Edward Burges/Patrick Kinnaird (dead)/James Olive (dead)/John Dyneley/Charles Wagstaffe/John Fitzgerald (dead)/Thomas Potenger/Day Hort McDoual/Michael Orr (dead)/Joseph Barnard Smith/James Lally/Robert Burgh/Lewis Pictet/Charles Wilkins/Archibald Montgomery/Samuel Touchet Junr/Charles Williams.

10. The Covenants of Messrs Robert Craufurd, Nathaniel Middleton and John Dyneley who are already in India, will be sent you which are to be executed and returned to us when compleated.

11. We have at the Recommendation of the high Authority here, appointed Mr Charles Fleetwood to be a Factor upon your Establishment to rank next below Mr Samuel Lewis.

12. We have also appointed Mr Charles Croftes (who was to have gone out last Year as a Writer, but his own Affairs obliged him to stay in England) to take rank as last of the Writers of last year and being well versed in Business and particularly skilled in accounts; that his knowledge may be of use to the Company we directt that you employ him as one of the Assistants at the Board for the Collection of the Revenues at Muxadavad.

13. The Ship Shrewsbury having arrived the 5th Instant at St Hellens, we have received your several Letters and particulars enclosed in that Ships Packet and in reply thereto you will receive our Sentiments by a future opportunity.

We are

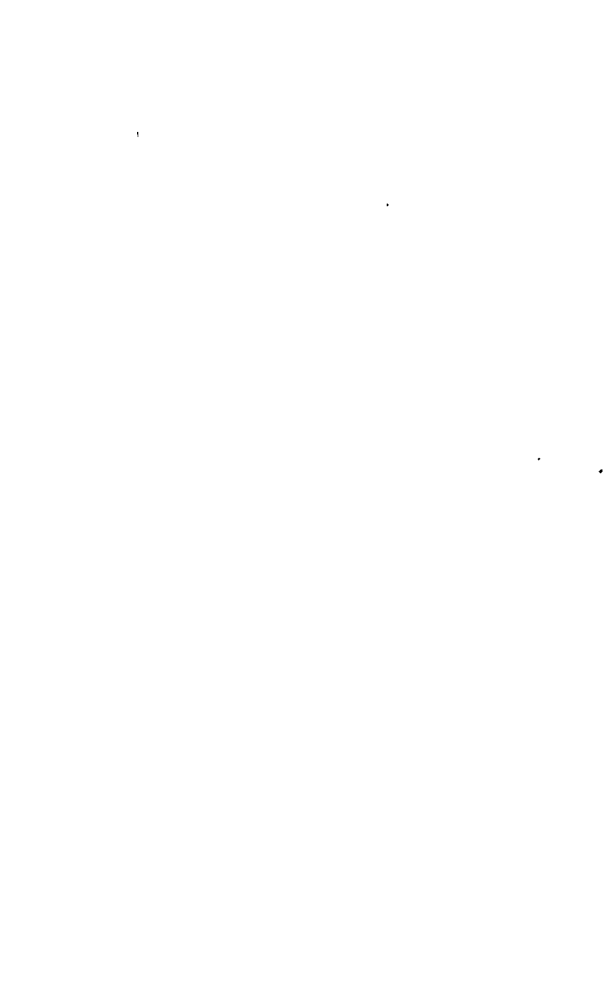
Your Loving Friends

G. Colebrooke/P. Cust/John Harrison/J. Purling/Fredk Pigou/Hy Crabb Boulton/J. Roberts/George Cuming/Wm. James/Chas. Boddam/John Motteux/William Snell/W. G. Freeman/L. Sullivan/W. Fletcher/Ben Booth.

London 7th December 1769.



# LETTERS TO COURT



## LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1767

*Want of tonnage in the Presidency—survey made of the Channel Creek—relations with the Dutch at Chinsura and at Malacca—very adverse effects apprehended of orders limiting remittances and reducing rates of exchange—the establishment of a gold currency announced—orders prohibiting Company's servants having double posts executed—Lord Clive to return to England.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We addressed you under the established heads by the Cruttenden the 28th November and a short letter of the 13th December to advise you of the receipt of the Mercury's packet which was forwarded to us overland from Vizagapatam.—Duplicates of those advices accompany this by the Britannia which now proceeds to you with a full loading amounting as P Invoice enclosed to C Rs. 11,46,900.

2. By the Cruttenden we advised of the safe arrival of the Anson and Pigot. The Duke of Albany & Nottingham have since imported from Bombay but we have yet no accounts of the Devonshire. The Gentlemen at Madras indeed acquaint us that a large ship which they suppose to be the Devonshire appeared in that road the 22nd of November and continued till the next day in the afternoon making repeated signals of distress, but the weather was so severe no assistance could be sent off to her however they were under no apprehension as the wind was favorable for her getting clear of the Coast.

3. Mr Secretary James's Letter of the 23rd May via Alleppo and Bussorah with the duplicates of the Mercury's Packet came safe to hand within these few days past and we are glad to find that we need be under no further apprehensions for the Osterley; had any accident happened to her it would have been out of our power to have spared the Nottingham to go in her room to China as you were pleased to direct being much Straitened for tonnage for our own Investment; the disappointment of the Devonshire adds greatly to our distress and we have been obliged to reduce the Tonnage for

Madras to two ships and an half and to resolve upon returning with a Cargo to you the Mercury which arrived from Vizagapatam the 16h Instant and even then we shall be necessitated to load at least ten laaks and a half upon each of the other ships

4 The Madras Tonnage besides the Camden, will be the Anson and Pigot the former will receive half a loading they are both now under disptch and will sail in a few days

5 Before the receipt of your Commands by the Mercury the Pigot was partly unloaded however we immediately sent down two Covenanted Servants to seal up the Hatchways and superintend the unloading of what remained on board, but nothing has been since discovered and it is with pleasure we can acquaint you, that upon a solemn examination of all the Officers upon oath Captain Richardson appears quite innocent of any concern in any illicit Trade on board It is certain there were thirty small bales or parcels of broad cloth conveyed on board the Pigot, imagined to be secretly received through some of the Gun ports, whilst some casks of Water and Wine were transshipping from the Grannada but without the consent or Knowledge of Captain Richardson and that they were the property of the late Mr Bethune Surgeon and Mr Ker the Purser, these circumstances are proven by the oaths of the different officers who appear themselves to have been ignorant of the matter until sometime afterwards that the same was discovered at sea, we therefore hope you will think we have acted up to the spirit of the meaning of your orders, in only reprimanding Captain Richardson for his neglect in not giving information to the President & Council at Madras or to us as was his duty after the affair did come to his knowledge, more especially as every other part of the depositions seems rather to do him honor than injure his Character Mr Ker we have rendered incapable of being again employed in the Companys Service without your express orders and have directed him to proceed home on the Nottingham Our proceedings on this enquiry make a number in the Packet

6 In consequence of the circumstances mentioned in your Letter P Mercury concerning Captain Roach of Fort William the same has been communicated to him to which he has desired leave to reply in writing We have ordered also that such of the passengers who came out in that Ship as are now in Bengal be called upon to give their depositions when we come to make the enquiries you have been pleased to direct, the result of which as well as of such other matters as the multiplicity of our business has hitherto prevented our making a regular scrutiny into shall be advised of by the latter ship

7. By private advices we learn that the Ponsborne which was dispatched from hence the tenth of April last not being able to get out of the Bay Captain Payne found himself under the necessity of putting in at Malacca the 5th June and intended attempting his passage through the straits of Dryen Banka and Sunda<sup>1</sup> though the Dutch gave him little hopes of Succeeding in it at that season of the year, and we are just informed by a ship from China that the Speke had met him clear of the straits of Banca they further mention that a French ship which had left Bengal three weeks before him was equally unsuccessful and had put in at Malacca.

8. The Adams Schooner was unfortunately lost in her passage from Luckypoor to Chittagong in October last and the Swift Schooner met with the same fate in a gale of Wind as she was laying in Ballasore Roads in the month of November.

9. In our Letter by the Cruttenden we mentioned our having ordered a survey to be made of Channel Creek which has lately been effected under the direction of Mr Plaisted and we have the pleasure to acquaint you that his report has fully answered our expectations, this discovery will be of particular utility in opening a passage out of the river when the Southerly Winds prevail and possibly at times when your Investments are late in the season secure your ships a certain passage out of the River. Mr Plaisted has delivered in a chart of the survey which is transmitted in the Packet.

10. We spoke very fully on the subject of the investment in our last advices and have only to add that the necessary orders have been given respecting the additional List received by the Mercury and that you may be assured this important branch shall be an object of our constant attention.

11. It shall be equally our care to avoid all cause of complaint from the Dutch and French, we wish they acted upon the same principle but they seem to seek for opportunities to complain and where they cannot find real cause they do not scruple to frame fictitious ones. There is a recent and glaring instance of this in a letter we lately received from the Director and Council at Chinsura. They first acknowledge to have sent an armed force in your own lands to release some goods that had been stopped at the Ghaut of Duan gunge<sup>2</sup> for the Customary duties, and to have seized one of the Sircars of that Chokey who was carried prisoner to Chinsura. And then they loudly complain of our Resident at Burdwan in whose district Duan gunge lies—because in consequence of having the matter represented to him he sent Peons to seize upon the Delolls & Gomastahs at Gheepray<sup>3</sup> who were concerned in it. An avowal of such a piece of violence in your own lands, and upon

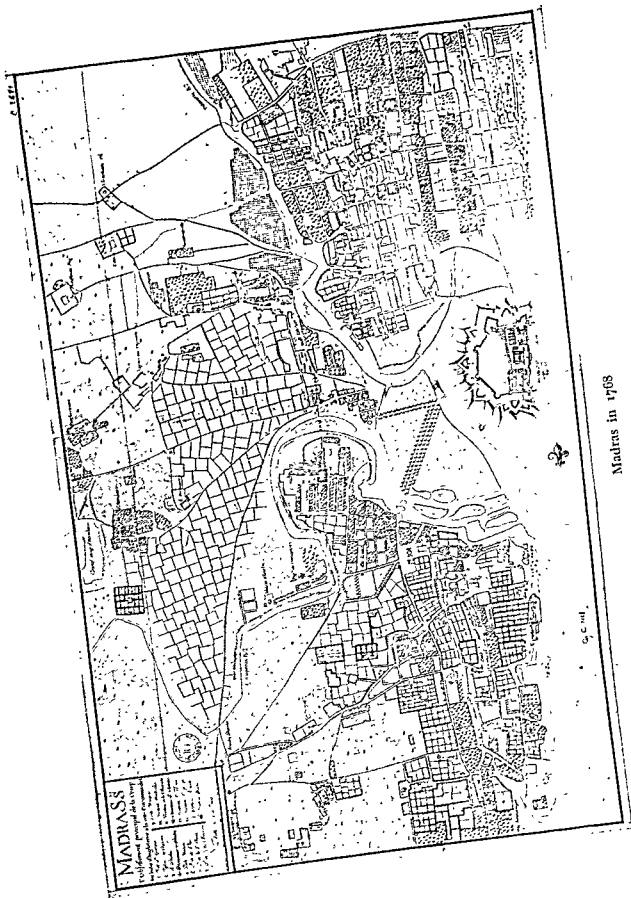


your own Tenants would better become a declared enemy than those who enjoy all the advantages of Trade there that you do yourselves while they deny us the privilege of purchasing a single piece of goods in their own possessions, it has more the air of Insult than complaint after taking the necessary depositions on the occasion, by which circumstances appear still more flagrant we have laid open their conduct and given our sentiments upon it in a very plain manner, giving them to understand that a proper submission only can entitle them in future to the benefit of Trade at the Aurungs in your own Lands. The other points they represent as grievances falling under the Country Government we have given the strictest orders to the Resident at the Durbar to enquire into them and have them redressed if just.

12. By the Grenville you were informed of the remonstrance we had sent to Batavia upon the illegal seizure of the Cargoes of two English Vessels by the Government at Malacca whose owners had applied to us for redress copy of their answer goes a number in the packet, and though the Director and Council at Chinsura are backward in making good the full damage we have reason to believe they will soon accommodate matters to the satisfcn. of the concerned and in such a manner as the nature of the case requires of us to insist upon.

13. The orders you have been pleased to give for limiting remittances and reducing the rate of exchange shall be strictly attended to but we should be wanting in our duty were we to con-  
 coal from you the apprehensions we have that it will but too effectually counteract your orders to discourage remittances by the means of foreign Cash, for Individuals in spite of our utmost diligence will prefer the channels that are least disadvantageous and as large sums remain in the place to be remitted the French and Dutch will for some time to come have resources within ourselves that we cannot prevent. But this is not the only evil, it will be attended with a stop to all importation of Treasure from Europe which is still of worse consequence for unless the great drains we have are replaced by such means the currency of the country must in a very few years be quite exhausted, and the revenues of the Company in fact be only ascertained by the quantity of the produce of the different Provinces. The annual import of bullion does not of late years exceed 5 Laaks of Rupees upon an average and no less than fifty go to the King and China, so that on a moderate calculation the currency has an yearly decrease of forty five Lacks which no kingdom can support long. To prevent this being so immediately and sensibly felt we have established a Gold Currency and as an inducement to bring hidden Treasures to light we have given it a value about six per





Madras in 1768

Cent (after the charges of coinage are deducted) higher than its intrinsic worth but we cannot yet judge how it will answer.

14. These considerations appear to us in so forcible a light and depending upon the large balance that the supplies of last year from hence [to?] Madras and Europe must leave in the supra cargoes hands at Canton we thought it most for your interest which is now so nearly connected with that of the Country in general to postpone for the present at least the execution of your orders P Mercury for sending forty Lacks thither and we are glad to find this resolution justified by the advices since received from Canton; the balance now there being fifteen hundred thousand tale which the supra cargoes inform us will be sufficient to load 14 Ships home next year however we are taking measures to supply them with Twenty four Lacks as usual of which one half is already forwarded to Madras and the rest will be sent on the Pigot and Anson now under dispatch.

15. Previous to your orders we had begun upon discharging your Bond Debt, which is now reduced to Current Rupees Thirty three Laaks, thirty one thousand five hundred and twenty nine, & two annas, and we shall continue to do so leaving such only as may appear to be the sole fund of support of old inhabitants and distressed widows and orphans which is not now an object for the Company compared with the relief it affords

16. As we find by experience that Sepoys will not be confined to Barracks we have ordered the Cantonments at Bankeypore and Burrampore to be completed only for the Europeans which will be attended with a very considerable Saving.

17. The importance of the Advices by the Admiral Stevens made the purchase of that Ship appear a proper measure particularly as she assisted in carrying home our Investment—and detaining the Asia for that purpose would have disappointed the Gentlemen at Bombay. Her misfortunes were unforeseen and we are sorry this part of our conduct has not given the satisfaction we had wished for.

18. A letter has lately been laid before us from Mr Henry Vansittart your late President being intended as an answer to a letter addressed to the Board by General Carnac, soon after Mr. Vansittarts leaving this Settlement in December 1764.—He requests to be furnished with certain papers referred to in the said letter from General Carnac but as no mention is made in any of your advices of such a letter from Mr. Vansittart, which as that Gentleman is now in England would have been the regular Channel

for such an application we did not think that we could with any propriety comply with his request.

19. Having in consequence of the orders signified to us, in your Letter of the 26th of March made enquiry concerning Martin Bigglesstone we are informed that he engaged in the Sea Service and died on board the *Amelia* commanded by Captain William Powney in a Voyage to Mocha in the year 1764.

20. Notwithstanding the enquiries made into the conduct of Captain Bowland of the *Cruttenden* as advised of in our letter of the 6th September last and whereby no proofs or even circumstances appeared in support of the charge against him of his having taken on board illicit trade, we have from reports which have since prevailed too much reason to apprehend that the suspicions against him were but too justly grounded and that he did contrive means to get ashore several bales of unprivileged goods. We know not how to account for this artifice unless the officers of the Ship who in consequence of the directions contained in your letter of the 13th December 1765 were not examined upon Oath depended on that very circumstance to exempt them from the Crime of perjury, for it is probable that some one or other of them must have known of it. We therefore wish that the Orders we have since received from you to examine as well the officers as passengers upon Oath, had arrived earlier as it might have produced a discovery which may now be of little consequence as We are not legally authorized to make a Seizure after the property is changed.—We shall nevertheless make it our business to investigate the circumstances of this report and acquaint you with the result of our enquiries.

21. The orders contained in your letter of the 19th February 1766 that none of your Servants under Council should enjoy double posts have been put into execution.

22. Since our advices by the *Cruttenden* the rest of the writers appointed last season for this Settlement are arrived and have been Stationed at the different offices.

23. The Gentlemen at Madras have transmitted to us an account of the disbursements made for the Recruits which came out on the Bombay ships for this Presidency during the time they were ashore there a copy of which is transmitted in the packet that the amount may be deducted out of the victualling charged by the Owners.

24. A list of the Inhabitants residing at Calcutta alphabetically arranged waits on you in the packet and shall be constantly transmitted in future agreeably to your directions.

25. This Settlement has for a long time been infested with a

number of Vagabonds who have found means to get out of England, or of absconding from the Europe Ships, we have caused several of them to be apprehended and shall take every opportunity of sending them out of India.

26. The General Books of this Presidency ending the 30h. April 1766 are transmitted by this Ship and we cannot but take this occasion to commend Mr Witts the sub accountant for his assiduity in that Department.

27. Captain Mair who commanded one of your battalions of Sepoys has been cashiered by a Court Martial held on him at Patna for drawing money for his battalion by false abstracts whence it appears that he received 4102 Rupees more than was actually paid to the Men. Captain Mair having been ordered down to Calcutta in consequence we have demanded the money of him, and if he should refuse payment we shall commence a prosecution against him in the Mayor's Court.

28. Lieut: Colonel Champion has solicited our permission to return to England in the Brittania for the recovery of his health, which has been greatly impaired by the fatigues he has undergone in the Course of twelve years employed in your service.—General Carnac under whose command he has distinguished himself on many occasions can from experience testify the merits of this officer—If therefore he should reap the benefit he hopes for from a change of Climate which the Surgeons have represented to be absolutely necessary for his recovery we beg leave to intercede with you in his behalf that he may be permitted to return to India without prejudice to the rank he holds in your service.

29. Major Winwood has been under the same necessity of returning to England on account of his health. He merits all that can be said in behalf of a brave and gallant officer who has in many instances given evident proofs of attachment to your Service.

30. Captain Scipio Carnac finding the climate disagree with him has also obtained permission to return to England and takes his passage in the Brittania.

31. We beg you will accept our grateful thanks for the distinguishing marks of your favor bestowed on Messrs. Russell Aldersey Kelsall and Campbell at the recommendation of Lord Clive and the Select Committee, such extraordinary rewards of Zeal exerted in your Service cannot fail to excite an emulation in your servants to merit your Notice and regard. The example we hope will be productive of salutary effects in the Settlement in general and with respect to the Gentlemen more immediately concerned we are well

assured it will be their utmost ambition to approve themselves worthy of the confidence you are pleased to repose in them.

32. The same indulgence we flatter ourselves you will please to extend to Mr Floyer who has so long assisted at this Board with equally approved Zeal for your service.

33. Mr. Watts having signified his intention of returning to Europe by the Ships of this season Mr Campbell has in consequence of your appointment in the advices P Mercury packet been admitted to a seat in Council next to Mr Floyer.

34. Lord Clive has found his health so much impaired by his late severe indisposition that he is under the necessity of returning to England by the first opportunity and takes his passage on board the Britannia, we cannot but regard it as a very happy circumstance that at such a juncture your affairs here have been restored to so favorable a situation by the plan which his Lordship had adopted & has persued with so much steadiness and perseverance.

35. Mr Sumner having resigned the Service and embarked for Europe in the Cruttenden Mr Verelst will succeed his Lordship in the Government of this Presidency and takes this opportunity of returning his acknowledgments for the sense you have expressed of his merit and services in your letter Pr. Mercury.

36. General Carnac has also desired leave to return to Europe in the Britannia as the tranquility of the Country is so well restored and has expressed his grateful sentiments for the honours conferred upon him, since he has been in your service.

37. The balance remaining this day in your Treasury is Current Rupees Sixty one Laaks seventy one thousand four hundred and forty (6171440) and in the cash Chest twenty seven thousand three hundred and sixty one three annas and five pice (27361-3-5)

38. And the Register of Diamonds by this Ship amounts to Current Rupees thirty two thousand seven hundred and Twenty seven, seven annas and five pice (32727-7-5).

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs

Your most faithful humble  
Servants

Clive/H. Verelst/John Carnac/Claude  
Russell/Wm. Aldersey/Thos. Kelsall/  
Alex Campbell.

Fort William  
Ye. 20th Jany. 1767.

*Postscript* :—39. We have drawn upon you by this ship the following sets of bills of Exchange at 2/3d. and 365 days amounting to C Rupees 344521-12-3 and twelve sets at two and rd. amounting to C Rs. 25654-14-0 which have been duly received into your Treasury.

Register of Bills of Exchange P Ship  
Britannia at 2/3d. & 365 days.

1 Set ca	To whom granted	£Stg.	s	d	To whom payable	C. Rs.	a.	p.
	Rt. Hon. 1d Clive	5000	0	0	Himself	4444	7	0
	Do	5000	0	0	Do	4444	7	0
	Do	5000	0	0	Do	4444	7	0
	Do	5000	0	0	Do	4444	7	0
	Do	5000	0	0	Do	4444	7	0
	Ge. Boulton Eyres acct. the Este. of Benj: Shunder	500	0	0	John Carnac	4444	7	0
	Ge. Boulton Eyres	500	0	0	Robert Jones	4444	7	0
	John [Burgrass?]	500	0	0	John Carnac	4444	7	0
	Robert Hunter	500	0	0	Himself	4444	7	0
	William Maxwell	50	0	0	Himself	444	7	0
	John Taylor	500	0	0	Himself	4444	7	0
	R. Skinner a/c							
	P. M. Dacres	100	0	0	Mary Dacres	888	14	0
	Do a/c Thos. Rumbold	1000	0	0	Nettleton Beecher & Raikes	8888	14	3
	Do a/c Benj. Wilding	500	0	0	Benj. Wilding	4444	7	0
	David Kellican acct ye. Este. of Robt. Burford	98	17	9	Thos. Misenor	879	0	0
	Wm. Harwood	80	0	0	Himself	711	1	9
	Thos. Crossley Cooke	50	0	0	Mary Mandeville	444	7	0
	Scipio Carnac	200	0	0	Himself	1,777	12	6
	Simon Droz	500	0	0	Charles Boileu	4444	7	0
	Saml. Barthw. Case	100	0	0	Messrs. Delatiaz & Dench	888	14	0
	Thos. Kelsall	1000	0	0	John Kelsall & Ed. Maskelyne	8888	14	0
	Messrs. Vansittart & Plow- man the amount of 1 chest of Coral Beads marked DFS No. 15 Imported p Ship Britannia 1766	437	11	1	Nathan & Co.	3889	6	3
	Nicholas Grenber	500	0	0	Himself	4444	7	0
	Messrs. Vansittart and Plowman the amount of one chest of Coral Beads marked S.F. No. 3 im- ported P Ship Pacific 1765	142	5	10	Judah Supino	1264	13	0
	Hugh Grant	250	0	0	Himself	2222	3	6
	Wm. Parry	500	0	0	do	4444	7	0
	Alex. Mackenzie	200	0	0	do	1777	12	6
	John Wood	500	0	0	do	4444	7	0
	David Mackenzie	50	0	0	Henry Davidson	444	7	0
	Henry Grant a/c							
	Rt. Wilmot	300	0	0	Hon. Juse. Wilmot	2666	10	0
	Ewan Law a/c							



Register of Bills of Exchange P Ship Britannia  
at 2/3d & 365 days

1 Set ea	To whom granted	£Stg	s	d	To whom payable	C	Rs	a	p
	Do a/c Ed Golding	200	0	0	[Heines?] Eddlowes	1777	12	6	
	Robt Hunter	500	0	0	Himself	4444	7	0	
	Anthony Sloan	500	0	0	do	4444	7	0	
	Andrew Hunter	500	0	0	do	4444	7	0	
	Thos Pearson	500	0	0	do	4444	7	0	
	James Ellis	500	0	0	do	4444	7	0	
	John Holme a/c								
	Thos Forbes Junr	500	0	0	Thos Forbes Senr	4444	7	0	
	James Harris	500	0	0	Quarles Harris	4444	7	0	
	Flemming Martin	500	0	0	William Martin	4444	7	0	
	Fredk Thos Smith	500	0	0	Josh Nicholas Smith	4444	7	0	
40 Setts	£ Sterlg	38758	14	8	Current Rs	344521	13	3	
1 Set ea	To whom granted	£Stg	s	d	To whom payable	C	Rs	a	p
	Josh Jekyll a/c	208	6	8	Rob H Baldrick	2000	0	0	
	Rob H Baldrick				Herself	2000	0	0	
	Do A/c Ana Ma Scott	208	6	8	do	1000	0	0	
	Do a/c Cathe Hepburn	104	3	4					
	Barthw Plaisted a/c	416	13	4	Himself	4000	0	0	
	John Macmouthe				do	612	0	0	
	Fitzowen Jones	63	15	0	do	960	0	0	
	Robert Tod	100	0	0	do				
	Wm Marriott a/c	104	3	4	Wm Brown	1000	0	0	
	Randolph Marriot Sr				Mary Marriott Senr	1900	0	0	
	Do a/c do	200	0	0	Louisa Lowe	487	8	0	
	Do a/c do	50	0	0					
	James Lister a/c	400	0	0	Charles Hutchinson	3840	0	0	
	Henry Hutchinson								
	Rt Hon Ld Clive a/c	212	0	4	Rt Hon Ld Clive	2035	6	0	
	ye Este Wm Hughes deceased								
	Thos Bates Rouse a/c	500	0	0	Thos Bates Rouse	4800	0	0	
	Harry Smith								
12 Sets	£Stg	2567	8	8	C Rs	24654	14	0	

40 The amount of the Bills and Certificates granted P Cruttenden and the applications of the Companys servants and Inhabitants by this Ship having nearly completed the amount of the drafts you have been pleased to limit us to, of one fifth part of the Investment sent home from this presidency, We could not consistently with those orders give Certificates to the Captains and officers of the ships for the sums they applied for on account of their outward bound adventures and acquainted them that we could only put them on the same footing as the Company's Servants who were allowed £500 each Captain Rouse upon this occasion quoted a part of your instructions to him wherein he is permitted to pay into your Cash upon Certificate the whole or any part of the net proceeds of his outward bound adventure Under this difficulty we

proposed as an expedient that moneys on that account might be paid in upon an acknowledgment only signed by the Board for the receipt of it, in consequence of which Captain Rouse has paid into the Treasury and had receipts for the following sums.

- |  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| 1 Set for Ct. Rs one Laak seventy five thousand<br>being upon oath the net proceeds of his<br>private investment as manifested to the<br>Hon'ble the Court of Directors . . . . .                                  | } | CRs. 1,75,000 |
| 1 Set for Current Rupees Twenty three<br>thousand seven Hundred and Sixty being<br>upon oath the net proceeds of the private<br>Investment of George Seaton deceased late<br>chief mate of the Britannia . . . . . | } | CRs. 23760.   |

41. As we consider the necessity we are under as a very peculiar hardship upon these Gentlemen we beg leave to recommend their Case to your consideration and could wish you will be pleased to regard their receipts in the same light as the Certificates usually granted.

42. Mr Alexander Cree second Mate of the Britannia having applied for Certificates for Current Rupees twenty thousand seven hundred and ninety two before we had come to the above resolution a set has been granted him for the same in the usual form.

43. A set of Bills of Exchange to Mr. George Williamson by the Cruttenden for £500 was by mistake made payable to Mrs. Ann instead of Mrs. Alice Forster—of which we here give notice that the parties may not suffer thereby.

We are

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your faithful humble Servants

Clive/H. Verelst/John Carnac/Claude

Russell/W. Aldersey/Thos. Kelsall/

Alex. Campbell.

Fort William

the 20th January 1767.

## LETTER DATED 24 JANUARY 1767

*Necessity and utility of the Diwani—how the functions of the Diwani are exercised—separate functions of the Council and the Select Committee—Company's servants and persons under British protection prohibited from lending money at usurious interest—salaries, instead of perquisites, for Muhammad Reza Khan, Shitab Roy and Roy Durlabh—fresh leases for Calcutta lands—restitution demanded of those who received presents at the accession of Najim-ud-Doula—defence of the plan of a regular but restricted private inland trade—promotion stopped because of inefficiency.*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. At the time we were honored with your Commands by the Mercury Packet Lord Clive's severe Indisposition obliged us to defer making any particular reply. We therefore contented ourselves with general expressions of thanks for the approbation you are pleased to bestow on our conduct and the confidence you repose in the Zeal and attachment of the Select Committee.

2. Having since his Lordship's recovery more maturely considered your Letter we beg leave to repeat our acknowledgements with the liveliest sense of duty and gratitude and to assure you that finding ourselves more completely armed with the sanction of your authority we shall proceed with boldness and vigour upon the same principles that have hitherto guided our steps and produced those events which you do us the honour to consider as important and fortunate to the Company.

3. When first we embraced the political System now established it was with diffidence: when we entered upon the correction of abuses, and the punishment of misconduct it was with Reluctance; but sensible that the one and the other were essentially necessary to the stability of Government and even to your existence in this Country, we pursued our measures with that disinterested Zeal, which we hope would merit your applause and we now receive in your approbation the most acceptable reward of our labours.

4. It is with extreme satisfaction we perceive that you agree with us in opinion respecting the expediency of the Royal Grant of the Dewanny The necessity and utility of this grant become every day more evident all cause of contention with the Govt. is now removed. Security to the Property freedom to the Trade and protection to the persons of the natural Inhabitants, are insured. Funds for the Provision of your Investments for the maintenance of your Troops and for the necessities of War are Established. Influence to command respect is acquired and we may in our present circumstances be regarded as the spring which concealed under the Shadow of the Nabob's name secretly gives motion to this vast Machine of Government, without offering violence to the original constitution an increase of our own and diminution of his power are effected without encroachment on his Prerogative. The Nabob holds in his hands as he always did the whole civil administration, the distribution of Justice, the disposal of offices and all those sovereign rights which constitute the essence of his dignity and form the most convenient Barrier between us and the Jealousy of the other European Settlements.

5. As to the functions of the office of Dewanny they have since we came into possession been exercised as you direct, by the Resident at the Durbar who acts as Collector of the Kings Revenue under the Inspection and control of the Select Committee. In conjunction with Mahomed Reza Cawn, he superintends the whole collections receives the monthly payments from the Zemindars disburses the stated Revenues appropriated to the King and the Nabob inquires into the Causes of deficiencies; redresses Injuries sustained or committed by the officers of the Revenue and transmits the accounts of his office, the invoices of Treasure, and a monthly account of the Treasury with every other occurrence of Importance to the President and Select Committee.

6. The collections of the Province of Bahar we have thought proper to place under the immediate direction of the Chief at Patha. He acts jointly with Setabroy and is subordinate to the Resident at the Durbar, to whom he makes his consignments of Treasure and transmits monthly accounts of his office which the Resident forwards to us. The diary you recommend would certainly conduce much to the regularity and method of office, but as we are afraid of distracting his attention by presenting too great a variety of different objects to the mind we must at present leave the particular mode of carrying on business to the Residents own discretion. His correspondence however with the Natives, and copies of all letters he may send or receive in his public station, we shall direct him to forward to us, with duplicates and Triplicates to be transmitted in our general Packet.

7. For the greater precision in the management of your affairs we have considered the whole business of the Dewanny as purely Political. It is therefore kept separate and apart from that of your former possessions, the direction of which will in future be left to the Governor and council in the manner explained in the next Para's.

8. To avoid confusion and delay in transacting the multiplicity of affairs now dependent on this Presidency, we have drawn a line

Decr. 21. whereby their distinct and respective Provinces are marked out and assigned to the Council and the Select Committee. To the former we have allotted the Disbursment of Money, the ordering preparing and directing your Investments, the managing your Calcutta Lands and Pergunnahs; the collecting the Revenues of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong together with the current business of the Presidency subordinate Factories & Aurungs with whatever may any way relate to the Trade and Navigation of India. These were the proper objects of the attention of your President & Council before the Company's Influence and power became so enlarged before the Armies they maintained, the alliances they formed and the Revenues they possessed procured them consideration as a Sovereign and Politic, as well as a Commercial Body.

9. To the Select Comm'ee is reserved the power of making treaties conducting negotiations, and contracting alliances; of ordering and directing everything relative to the operations of War; the defence of the Country and to Military Affairs; of settling the amount of the annual Revenues and Collecting them in quality of Dewan for the King of issuing orders to the Resident at the Durbar and corresponding with the Country Powers; in a word of carrying on whatever business may affect the Government or the political, and military interest of our Hon'ble Employers with this farther reservation of the Power delegated to the Committee, of interfering upon such occasions as they may judge necessary to the good of the Company & general welfare of the Country.

10. Such are the regulations under which we propose to conduct the business of this Presidency in future and which we hope will meet with your approbation. In marking the limits assigned to each department we have observed all possible regard to the honor of the Board and to the natural boundaries of what your Possessions were and what they now are, with this view especially that if upon any future emergency or reverse of Fortune we should be forced to relinquish our late acquisitions and return to our former condition we may do it with the least injury to your affairs.

11. In the list of Packet by the Cruttenden we sent you a general Estimate of the Revenues for the present year to be collected in the provinces of Bengal & Bahar in the manner fixed and adjusted at the last Punahs. For your further satisfaction we now transmit an explicit account of the receipts and disbursements of the Dewanny Treasury from the above period whence you will observe that the monthly payments have been strictly kept up, and that the annual collections are likely to answer our most sanguine expectations. Should any deficiency arise upon the present Statement, it must proceed from the Regulations we have made for the increasing of your Investment which necessarily restrains many articles of Private Trade that always paid duty to the Government and also from the impossibility of our enforcing the Collections in the remote Frontier Provinces, where many independent Rajahs reside with the same degree of authority exerted under the immediate eye of yr. resident at the Durbar.

12. Sensible of the Importance of these Revenues to the Company, and convinced by experience that it requires the most unremitting dilligence to prevent the Natives from eluding Payment of the stated collections, Your Select Committee will ever be attentive to support with all their Influence the authority of the Resident at the Durbar and to see their orders for restraining the pernicious Interposition of your servants in the affairs of Government, rigorously enforced. As early as the month of November 1765 we strictly prohibited all your Servants Civil and Military from lending money to the Zemindars without first obtaining the consent and approbation of the ministers, but observing this order might be evaded under various pretences we have now agreeably to your directions enjoined on pain of immediate dismissal from your Service that any person whatsoever living under protection of the Company shall lend money at a higher rate of Interest than 12 P Cent P annum except on Respondentia only. As the success of the Durbar Resident's endeavors to complete the annual collections depends in great measure upon the Punctual observance of this highly necessary regulation you may rest assured that nothing in our Power shall be wanting to exact implicit obedience, and that we shall without regard to persons, punish the offenders with the utmost severity.

13. When first we received from His Majesty the grant of the Dewanny and entered upon the collection of the Royal Revenue, we committed this important charge to the management of Mahomed Reza Cawn, under the immediate inspection of the Resident at the Durbar. We could not conveniently, before we received your approbation of the steps we had taken assign stated salaries to the ministers and we were therefore obliged to connive at their

receiving for the maintenance and support of their dignity certain emoluments and perquisites which have always by the custom of the Country been annexed to their station and offices.

14. Mahomed Reza Cawn has now of himself with great delicacy of Honor represented to us the evil Consequences that must ensue from the Continuance of this Practice; since by suffering the principal officers of the Government to depend for the support of their dignity on the precarious fund of Perquisites, we in a manner oblige them to pursue oppressive corrupt measures equally injurious to the Country and to the Company. We are likewise of opinion that it is more becoming the dignity of your Government, more consistent with your true interest and more conformable to the plan we have adopted of conciliating to us the minds of the natives, that a stop should in future be put to the necessity of those exactions which though customary, must nevertheless be grievous to the people; and we have therefore upon due consideration of the necessary expences consequent on their rank station and offices, assigned 12 Laaks of Rupees P Annum for the maintenance and support of Mahomed Reza Cawn, Roy Dullub, and Setabroy who hold in their hands the most important Employments of the Government.

15. In establishing this Fund for maintenance of the principal officers of the state we have had a particular regard to the amount of their perquisites which will henceforward be annexed to the Revenues, to their Elevated stations & to the expediency of supporting them in all the show and parade requisite to keep up the authority and influence of their respective offices. As they are all men of weight and consideration in the Country, who held places of great trust and profit under the former Government we farther proposed by this act of generosity to engage their cordial services and confirm them steady in our interest; since they cannot hope from the most successful ambition to rise to greater advantages by any change or revolution of affairs. At the same time it was reasonable we should not lose sight of M. R. Cawn's past services, he has pursued the Company's interest with steadiness & diligence. His abilities qualify him to perform the most important services. The unavoidable charges of his particular situation are great. In dignity he stands second to the Nabob only, and as he engages to encrease the Revenues without injustice or oppression to more than the amount of his salary and to relinquish those advantages to the amount of Eight Laaks of Rupees P annum which he heretofore enjoyed we thought it proper in the distribution of salaries to consider Mahomed Reza Cawn in a light superior to the other Ministers, this we have recommended to the President, will adjust with their approbation these several proportions to be drawn from the above appointment.

We have only to observe farther upon this subject that great and enormous as the sum must appear which we have allotted for the support of the Ministers of the Government we will not hesitate to pronounce that it is necessary and reasonable and will appear so on consideration of the power which men employed on those important services have either to obstruct or promote the Public good, unless their Integrity be confirmed by the ties of gratitude & interest.

16. Previous to the arrangement made of Public Business whereby all your former possessions are delivered over in Charge to the Governor and Council we had under  
 Nov 4th. consideration the letting the Calcutta lands to New Tenants upon fresh Leases. Such was the Resolution of the Committee on the 2nd of December 1765, to which purpose advertisements were then published. A list of Farmers was selected from the great number of candidates who offered themselves, in framing which we had a particular regard to the character and services of those persons admitted to the benefit of Lands.—

17. If you will please to refer to the President's minutes at the time we granted the former leases you will find that his Lordship then entertained suspicions of fraud in the management of the Pergunnahs. In consequence we had set on  
 Decr. 2nd 1765 foot an enquiry the effects of which appeared just as we were on the point of closing our agreement with the new Farmers this determined us to postpone the intended grants until the 11th day of April next that Our researches into this dark affair might not be obstructed by the collusion and artifice of the new Tenants, the fresh leases will then be made out by the President and Council we doubt not with a very considerable increase of rent arising from an equal assessment according to the real value of the Lands for we would avoid every act of Violence and oppression as well as of favor and partiality to Individuals.

18. I immediately upon receipt of your orders for commencing a suit against your servants who had received presents at the accession of the late Nabob we formally demanded by a letter from our Secretary full restitution of Messrs Playdell and Middleton now in Bengal and of the Attorneys of those Gentlemen who are returned to England Mr Playdell's answer we have not yet received. Mr. Middleton's is annexed to our proceedings and we beg leave to recommend it to your consideration as we are well assured that Gentleman was entirely ignorant of your orders for signing Covenants at the time he accepted the presents. The reputation of strict honor and integrity which Mr Middleton always maintained in



your service obliges us to wish that you would please to distinguish him from those other servants who have incurred your displeasure by dropping a prosecution that must be attended with ruin to his Fortune and Family—for these reasons and as he agrees to give us security that he will answer to you or us every Legal demand upon his fortune we have thought proper to avoid filing the Bill of discovery which you direct

19 Agreeably to your orders and to the directions contained in the opinion of His Majestys Attorney and Solicitor General we are preparing to file Bills against the other Gentlemen upon the refusal of their attorneys to answer our demand without authority from their constituents Upon enquiry we find that none of their effects are in possession of the Company and we apprehend that scruples will arise in the Mayors Court as to the power of attaching such effects as may be deposited in the hands of their agents, or of the natives We shall however literally follow your Instructions as far as circumstances will admit and we can act consistently with your security, in a place where the Profession of the Law is exercised by men who seem to derive all their knowledge by Inheritance, or to possess it from intuition without previous study or application

20 We come now to speak of your instructions relative to the Inland Trade you very justly consider as the foundation of all the Bloodshed Massacres and confusion which have happened of late years in Bengal Your orders are possitive and therefore our obedience shall be implicit Accordingly you will observe in our Proceedings that the *society* for conducting this branch of Traffic stands absolutely abolished on 1st day of September next The contract for the present year being formed  
 Jany 16 and large advances made it was impossible without ruin to individuals and confusion to the Public, to fix an earlier date for the execution of your orders

21 But although our duty obliges us to pay the strictest obedience to your peremptory orders for abolishing a trade to which you express so strong an aversion the same duty requires we should freely offer our sentiments upon a subject, in which we think your immediate interest, the good of the Service and the public welfare are deeply concerned The Hon Court of Directors and indeed the whole body of Proprietors found it necessary to restrain by covenants their Civil and Military Servants from receiving those advantages to which they had for many years been accustomed It is likewise proposed in order you may enjoy the real fruits of your late acquisitions to make such an increase of Investment particularly in silk as will effectually deprive your servants of the usual

benefits arising from private Trade. Farther that the Revenues may not be injured in any degree they are prohibited from lending money at a higher rate of Interest than 12 Per Cent Per Annum; and a Trade by sea in the manufactures of the Country being the only remaining channel for the exertion of Industry, that likewise is choked up by those shoals of Free Merchants annually imported who being encumbered with no public business nor confined to residence in Bengal can carry on a free trade with every part in India, to much greater advantage than your Servants.

22. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, reflecting also upon the great encrease of luxury of late years in consequence of the sudden influx of wealth and that it will not be practicable for a time to reduce the charges of living to the present means of supporting those charges we adopted in consequence of your permission the plan of a regular and restricted inland Trade, as the best method of rewarding faithful services the surest means to excite zeal and the fairest mode of carrying on a beneficial Trade with relinquishing all the advantages we have hitherto received or subjecting the Natives to more encroachments on their natural rights, of which they have with too much reason complained.

23. Our Letter by the Camden & Proceedings by the Cruttenden will explain to you the regulations in the original plan of the Society, which took place in the month of September last. Under these Regulations the Trade can scarce be considered in the odious Light of a monopoly since we are rather the Agents for manufacturing the Salt than the Proprietors of the Trade. It is sold in Calcutta to the Natives only and to the utter exclusion of all Europeans, at an easier rate than it could ever be procured when under management of the Government before we were admitted to any participation. The natives transport it to all the different parts of the Country under such limitations that it must reach the hands of the consumer at a stated and moderate price. Hereby the People sensibly feel the Justice and Lenity of our Government and Yr. servants who have attained the highest stations after a course of many years spent in this unfavourable climate reap the reward of their services and enjoy the means of securing that Independence to which they have so Equitable a Claim.

24. We are now directed totally to renounce all share in and benefit arising from this Trade. It must be made over to the Natives. The Government must of course come into possession; nor can it be carried on otherwise than upon the ancient footing of farming it out to ministers, officers, favorites, and dependents on the Government, who will rear immense fortunes upon the oppression and Ruin of the Public in despite of our utmost influence and

endeavours. These are at present our suspicions. Time alone can verify our conjectures. You no doubt will maturely consider how far it is probable men will continue honest against all the seductions of private Interest; and whether it may not be necessary to strengthen the ties of that duty expected from your servants by the tighter Bonds of gratitude for the affluence which they enjoy during the time of their servitude, and the Independency they ought to secure before the close of their labours.

25. By the Admiral Stevens we earnestly recommended that the Select Committee might be continued. You are pleased to approve

Jan: 16h.

our sentiments, which experience has rather confirmed than altered. You have entrusted Lord Clive with the Powers of abolishing it Entirely or continuing it under such regulations as he shall think most conducive to your service. His Lordship who joins with us in opinion that the Government upon its present Establishment cannot properly be conducted except by a Select Committee composed of your servants of the greatest zeal, integrity and abilities has delivered in as the last act of his Administration a proposal for continuing the Committee after his departure, in the manner expressed in his Letter entered in Our proceedings. The Gentlemen proposed to fill up the vacancies, are such as we could not but approve: and the plan laid down by his Lordship for the guidance and direction of the Committee, so clearly chalks out the path which we ought to pursue and the only path which can lead to your honor and Interest that if we deviate from it it must proceed not from Ignorance but Inclination, and we become in all respects accountable for the consequences, of such deviation.

26. It is with the deepest concern we must observe to you that after due consideration of the present state of your service in Bengal and of the unfitness of some and the youth of others who stand next in succession to Council, we thought it essentially necessary to stop the course of promotion and to pass an act of this Board, that no vacancies which might happen in Council should be filled up until your further pleasure could be known. The importance of this station being now greatly raised by the increase of your revenues and Influence, it is of the last consequence that the management of such weighty concerns should only pass through the hands of men of the greatest experience and abilities you can select.

27. The President and Council we are sorry to remark have incurred your censure for purchasing the Admiral Stevens at our recommendation. We considered her advices were of too much importance to the Company to be retarded on account of a trifling difference of Expense. Your acquisitions of which you had then

the first notice could only be secured by an early reinforcement of Troops. To alter the destination of your China Ship would have proved injurious to your valuable Investment as she carried a large supply of Treasure. The Kent we knew to be a bad sailor and the expedient we fell upon appeared then to us the only resource. We are further to observe that in the Survey made of the Admiral Stevens we were deceived as she afterwards proved to be in a worse condition than was reported by the Master Attendant and officers.

28. The Persian Translator having for some time past been too much indisposed to attend to business we are under the necessity to postpone till the dispatch of the latter ships, the Complete set of Country correspondence which we proposed transmitting by the Britannia.

We have the honor to be  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your most faithful humble

Fort William

servants

the 24h. January 1767 Clive/H. Verelst/John Carnac/Chas. Sykes.

*Postscript:—*29. We have just received from the Council at Canton a narrative of the loss of the Earl Temple in the China Seas. This account was taken from the declaration of three of the Crew who arrived at Canton, one of whom the Supra cargoes have sent to Bengal to assist in Navigating a Vessel we propose sending in hopes to save the lives of several of our countrymen who are now confined in a wretched condition to the small boundaries of a desolate Island We transmit the narrative a number in the Packet.

Clive/H. Verelst/John Carnac/Chas. Sykes

### 3.

## LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1767

*Assaymaster's report—despatch of the Cuddalore Schooner in search of survivors of the Ship Earl Temple.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. The Britannia received her dispatches from Ingelee the 29th of last month, on which Ship Lord Clives bad state of health obliged him to return to England Mr Verelst has succeeded him as President and Governor of your affairs at this Presidency and he has taken the restrictive oath and executed the Penalty Bond proposed for all future Governors of Fort William as mentioned in Our Letter P Cruttenden of the 28h. November 1766.

2. General Carnac having also embarked on the Brittannia is succeeded by Colonel Richard Smith in the Command of your Military Forces on this Establishment who has taken his seat as third in Council agreeably to the orders signified in your Commands of the 17h. May received P Mercury.

3. The Anson & Pigot were dispatched from Ingelee for Madras the former the fourth Instant with half a loading for Europe. The latter the 6th. agreeably to the disposition of your Shipping signified in our Letters P Cruttenden and Britannia.

4. The Duke of Albany now proceeds to you with a full lading amounting as per Invoice enclosed to Ct. Rupees. ... ..

5. The Nottingham is also under dispatch, we hope to get her away by the middle of March and the Mercury which arrived lately from Vizagapatam will follow as soon as possible with the remainder of our Investment.

6. In consequence of the orders you have given in your Letter P Mercury Packet respecting Captn. Roach late Commander of the Fort William we have gone through an examination of Mr Bensley a passenger and Mr [Corner?] the Surgeon of that Ship the only persons now in Calcutta who were on board from the result of which the information you have received appears to be confirmed that Captain Roach did actually receive on board some illicit Trade at Teneriffe however from some circumstances it is doubtful whether he had any such views in calling there. One thing is certain he has been more moderate than the other Transport Ships, the Prince of Wales excepted, for the Ship was not lumbered and the people arrived here so remarkably healthy that Captn. Roach was thanked for his care of them.

7. A Copy of our Proceedings on this enquiry makes a number in the Packet to which we beg leave to refer, and Captain Roach in consequence of your orders returns to England in this Ship. Respecting his accounts the Occasional Committee have not yet gone through their Enquiry.

8. Mr Massey late Captain of the Hector having at his particular request obtained permission of the President and Council of Fort St George to Come to Bengal to dispose of the Ship before his return to England in consequence of your orders is arrived and will proceed in the Nottingham.

9. The Assay Master has delivered in to us a letter containg. his observations on the state of the Mint and the Improvement made in the coinage since the new regulations have been adopted. A Copy of his letter is transmitted in the Packet accompanied with an Assay Book describing the number and nature of the assays made in the Course of last year to which and former Letters from the Assay Master transmitted in the Packets Per Grenville and Ponsborne, we beg leave to refer in answer to the enquiries made on this subject in your letter of the 23rd of February.

10. We send in this Ships Packet our import Warehousekeepers report of the Vidonia Wine consigned to Us this season. The parcel received from Mr Collogan appears to be the best wine though much inferior to the Madeira which has more body and is esteemed here a more healthy and pure Wine we hope you will be pleased to supply us with that assortment only in future. No Invoice was transmitted to us of Mr Collogan's Wine which therefore we cannot bring to account on our books. There was a leakage of six pipes on the whole consignment the cause of which is attributed to the badness of the Casks. We directed the Import Warehouse Keeper and Cooper to be very careful and circumspect in their examination and Report of this Wine which has only lately been laid before us. We shall now order it to be put up to sale of which you shall be duly advised.

11. The Select Committee have laid before us some advices lately received from the Supra Cargoes at Canton enclosing a narrative of the unfortunate loss of the Earl Temple upon an Island in the China seas in June 1763 which they obtained from three foremast men who after undergoing most severe hardships had escaped to Cochin China and from thence sent to Canton. From this narrative it is possible that some of the Crew may be yet surviving as the Island though uninhabited affords means of sustenance, we have therefore in consequence of a recommendation from the Gentlemen at Canton determined to send the Cuddalore Schooner in quest of them and Richard Pelling one of the three men who escaped having offered his services will go in her to assist the Commander in search of the particular spot. If these intentions should fail of success the dispatch of the Cuddalore may yet be of service in making a survey of the Islands in the China Seas the utility of which has been also

strongly urged The Commander will therefore be furnished with the necessary instructions for that purpose with directions to follow the orders of the Supra Cargoes at Canton upon his arrival at Macao

12 Mr Aldersey having undergone the fatigue of the Secretary's employ near twelve months the business of which is now reduced to method and his assistance being necessary in the management of the employs at this Presidency, Mr Droz has been appointed to succeed him in that Department and has taken the charge of it accordingly

13 Since our advices by the Britannia Captain Robert Campbell and Lieut Sloan have resigned your service and obtained our permission to return to Europe

14 Several of the officers concerned in the late association are embarked on board the Duke of Albany whose names are inserted in the list of Passengers

15 The utility we have found in having light guns attached to the sepoy's by inspiring them with a proper confidence prompts us to request that you will be pleased to furnish us by the first opportunity with forty amusettes long brass Guns of two and a half or three pound Calibre which have been recommended by Colonel Smith

16 The balance this day remaining in your Treasury is Current Rupees 4527050 59 and in your Cash Chest Current Rupees 28038 4 11

We are

Hon ble Sirs

Your faithful & Obedt Servants

H Verelst/Richard Smith/Claude

Fort William

Russell/W Aldersey/Thos Kelsall/

the 16h February 1767

Charles Floyer/Alexr Campbell

*Postscript* —17 We have drawn upon you by this Ship two sets of Bills of Exchange at 365 days sight and 2/3 exchange One Set to Colonel Richard Smith for Current Rupees eight Thousand Eight hundred and Eighty eight fourteen Annas and three pice or £ Sterling One thousand payable to Messrs Orme, Brown and Clive & the other to Mr Claude Delaporte account Joseph Pouchon Executor to the Estate of Gideon Ferrand at 365 days sight and 2/1d Exchange for Current Rupees Eight hundred eighty two one anna three pice payable to Mrs Ferrand

18. We have likewise granted receipts for the following sums.

One set for Current Rupees four thousand four hundred to Mr Evans Surgeon of the Anson being upon Oath part of the net proceeds of his private Investment as manifest to the Court of Directors . . . . . C Rs 4,400-0-0

One Set for Current Rupees four thousand four hundred to Mr John Bryant Purser of the Anson being upon oath part of the proceeds of his private Investment as manifested to the Court of Directors . C Rs 4,400-0-0

One Set for Current Rupees Seventy one Thousand one hundred & eleven and two annas being upon oath part of the net proceeds of the private Investment as manifested to the Court of Directors of Captain Lennox of the Anson . . . . C Rs 71,111-2-0

One Set for Current Rupees Thirty five Thousand one hundred & twelve to Captain James Haldane of the Duke of Albany being upon oath part of the net proceeds of his private Investment as manifested to the Court of Directors . . C Rs 35,112-0-0

One Set for Current Rupees five thousand two hundred and forty four, seven Annas and one pice to Mr James Lister being upon oath part of the net proceeds of the private investment of Captain Nathaniel Smith of the Lord Camden as manifested to the Court of Directors . . . . . C Rs 5,244-7-1

One Set to Captain James Haldane for C Rs thirteen thousand nine hundred being upon oath part of the net proceeds of the private investment of Mr Thomas Balmain late second mate of (the) Duke of Albany as manifested to the Court of Directors . . . . . C Rs 13,900-0-0

Their several accounts have been received into your Treasury for which Credit is given in your Books.



19. The Register of Diamonds by this Ship amounts to Current Rupees nine thousand four hundred forty and Eight Annas.

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your Faithful & Obedient Servants  
H. Verelst/Richard Smith/Claude  
Russell/W. Aldersey/Thos. Kelsall/  
Chas. Floyer/Alexr. Campbell.

Fort William  
the 16h. February 1767

## 4

## LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1767

*Departure of Clive—praise of his services—perfect harmony in the Select Committee—a plea for adequate subsistence for writers and subaltern officers—last invasion of Ahmad Shah Abdali—Third brigade still in Shuja-ud-Daulah's country.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. After accomplishing your earnest wishes for the Restoration of peace and Tranquility in Bengal your late President Lord Clive embarked for England in the Britannia leaving the Government in charge to Mr Verelst.

2. A duplicate of our dispatches upon that occasion containing a recital of the most considerable occurrences since the departure of the Cruttenden we have the honor to transmit a number in the Packet together with the proceedings of that date of the Select Committee.

3. We should be wanting in the just praises of superior merit, and in gratitude for the essential services performed by Lord Clive if we failed to acknowledge that to the prudence and vigour of his administration you are chiefly to ascribe the present flourishing condition of your Affairs. Firm and indefatigable in his pursuits he joined to the weight of personal Character, a zeal for your Service, and a Knowledge of your interests, which could not but insure success.

4. It would be unnecessary to remind you of the deplorable

condition in which His Lordship and the Committee found this Settlement. We beheld a Presidency divided, headstrong and Licentious. a Government without nerves, a Treasury without Money and a Service without subordination discipline or Public spirit. We may add that amidst a general Stagnation of useful Industry and of licensed Commerce Individuals were accumulating immense Riches which they had ravished from the insulted Prince and helpless people, who groaned under the united pressure of discontent Poverty and oppression.

5. Such was the condition of this Presidency and of these provinces at the time his Lordship and the Committee entered upon the arduous task of Reformation Your present situation need not be described The liberal supplies to China, the state of your Treasury of your Investment, of the service and of the whole country declare it to be the strongest contrast to what it was, and the most pleasing Assemblage of fortunate circumstances and of prosperous events that has occurred at any period.

6. As the measures pursued are so fortunate as to meet with your approbation and as they precisely correspond with our own sentiments you may be assured of our constant endeavours to preserve your affairs in the same channel through which they have flowed with such variety of success We therefore beg leave to repeat to you what we have already declared to Lord Clive, that no motive, no consideration shall ever induce us to depart from that system of Politics which he has recommended to us by precept and Example unless some very extraordinary event and unforeseen change should occur in the posture of your affairs.

7. A few days after his Lordship's departure the Select Committee assembled in pursuance of your orders and of the Resolution taken the 16h. Ulto. to fill up the vacancies occasioned by the resignation of Lord Clive Mr. Sumner and General Carnac sensible of the good effects which must result from our unanimity it is with pleasure we observe that all the members appearing to be actuated by the same principles we have before us the cheerful prospect of proceeding with harmony and mutual confidence.

8. It was with much regret we entered upon the exercise of those powers which you have been pleased to confer on the Committee, by an act of necessary severity towards Lieutenant Butler whom we dismissed the service for insolent behaviour and obstinate disobedience to the orders of the acting Chief at Cossimbuzar.

9. With the same view of asserting the authority of your Council and extirpating every seed of sedition from the army the

Committee came to a resolution of dismissing Mr Rider one of your covenanted servants, and all those officers who had subscribed to an address presented to Sir Robert Fletcher, Jan'y 6 after that gentleman had been cashiered by a Court Martial of Field Officers, and their sentence ratified by the whole board So avowed a spirit of opposition to the sentiments of their superiors, and expressed so immediately after a general and dangerous combination demanded the most vigorous punishment

10 We are happy in the opportunity of remarking the favorable change which evidently appears in the Conduct and disposition of your Civil servants who seem to have profited by your wholesome and seasonable correction At the same time that it may be necessary to hold in your hands the Rod of Chastisement, we cannot but offer it as our opinion that every salutary effects may also be expected from the occasional exercise of your Lenity and Indulgence—When you have duly considered the many restrictions now imposed on the Junior Servants—When you reflect upon the Exorbitant price to which almost every article of living is risen, we hope it will appear to you as it evidently does to Us that their allowance is no way proportioned to the unavoidable expences of the most rigid economist

11 They are now deprived the benefit of all Trade, they are restrained from receiving the Salaries annexed to double employments, which were advantages that ought to be appropriated in reward of diligence and ability The greater number is indeed reduced to bare monthly allowance, which it must be owned, is too scanty a Fund to secure them against the necessity of incurring debts that have a bad influence upon their morals by entangling them in difficulties from which every means will naturally be tried to extricate themselves

12 For these reasons we exhort you that a competent subsistence may be established for your Junior Servants, and more especially the writers who have no claim to Dusticks that amidst the present opulence of the Company, their servants may not be suffered to live for some years at least in penury and want As to the freedom of this representation of facts we are assured it will meet with your excuse, since it proceeds from our duty, which obliges us to conceal nothing that so immediately affects your service and Interests

13 The state of the Army is likewise an object worthy of your consideration In times of profound peace when the Troops lose the advantages they enjoy in the field, and are reduced in Cantonments to half batta, and in garrison to their mere pay it is scarce possible that subaltern officers can subsist and maintain

the appearance which they ought of Gentlemen We shall try every possible means to reduce their expences and to lower the wages and number of servants but abuses have prevailed so long and established themselves so firmly that to remove them will require time and rigour. Colonel Smith has already made great progress in the Reformation of your Military Establisht. and we are persuaded that the same activity which has been exerted in reducing the Army to order and obedience will be continued to influence the officers to prudence and economy.

14. In consequence of some very just and pathetic remonstrances we have agreed to make a farther provision than is allowed by charter party for those officers who are dismissed, as well as for those others who having resigned your service are thought unworthy of being restored, and are therefore ordered home by the Board. The circumstances of many of these unhappy persons cannot but excite compassion. Without money, without clothing, and without friends, they are for the preservation of order and Police in the Settlement ordered on board Ship where they can only be received on the footing of the meanest seamen or Soldiers. After coming abroad and supporting in the service the character of officers and Gentlemen. We have acted as we think becomes the dignity of your situation, and as humanity dictates. An allowance of Thirty pounds for each passenger is made to the Captain, that being the sum which you direct to be paid on account of officers who come abroad; and we are to observe that whether you should chuse or not to continue the allowance it could not be avoided on this particular occasion without incurring the Censure of Barbarity, or suffering the Presidency to be overrun with idle and discontented people.

15. In the short space of time which intervenes since our last Dispatches no change has occurred in the politics of this Country excepting that the Army of Abdallee still continues advancing towards Delhi. We shall take into our most mature consideration what consequences may result from the arrival of this northern Invader at the Capital respecting the peace and tranquillity of our Allies or of these Provinces.

16. Suja Dowla continues in the same disposition and the Mahrattas discover no intention of disturbing our repose. The third Brigade however still remains stationed in Suja Dowla's Country, for which reason we thought proper to decline his request to Sir Robert Barker that we should Entirely evacuate Chunargur; since we consider that Fortress as a necessary pledge of his fidelity and a proper security to our Troops whilst they are acting at his own requisition in defence of his Dominions.

17. We now beg leave to transmit the complete set of Country

Correspondence from the 1st January 1766 to the close of the year, which from a variety of accidents could not be sooner prepared. The President has laid before us his Country Correspondence from the time he entered upon the Government the broken set of which we shall forward by the Nottingham and as those Letters are considered the most authentic Records of the true state of the Country, we shall take all possible care to have them regularly sent home for your information.

We have the honor to be

Hon'ble Sirs

Your faithful humble servants

H. Verelst/Claude Russell/Alexr.  
Campbell/Richard Smith.

Fort William

the 19h. February 1767.

## 5

### LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1767

*A ship belonging to the King of Pegu, mortgaged to the Company restored to him—the Cuddalore schooner failed in its mission—several dismissed military officers refusing to embark as charter party passengers—large increase in investment.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We addressed you last by the Duke of Albany under date the 16h. February she received her dispatches from Ingelee the 22nd of last month and the Nottingham now follows with a complete lading amounting as per Invoice enclosed to Company's rupees 10,54,500.

2. By advices from Fort St. George we learn that Mr Palk embarked for England on board the Lord Camden which sailed the 26h. January having resigned to Mr Bouchier the Government of your affairs at the Presidency.

3. We have the pleasure to hear of the safe arrival of the Devonshire at Anjengo which proves to be the ship that appeared in the Madras road in the month of November but was obliged by the violence of the weather to put off the Coast again as mentioned

in our letter of the 26h. January. Ninetyfive Recruits have been landed from her at Anjengo and are to be conveyed to Manapar<sup>1</sup> from whence the Commandant at Pallamcottah has orders to conduct them to his Garrison.

4. Mr Edmund Massey late Captain of the Hector, having come to Bengal with the permission of the President and Council at Madras to dispose of his Ship, sold her to Captain Price, without taking from him any security that she should not pass into the hands of a Foreign Nation in India agreeable to the terms of Charter Party, and Captain Price not being under any such restriction disposed of her to the Dutch. The President on having information thereof ordered the Ship to be detained, but as she had been sold at public outcry, it was thought most eligible to prevent a dispute between the two nations to come upon the owners of the Hector for Breach of Charter party agreement whereupon Captain Massey has given an Indemnification Bond for the amount of the Penalty being seven thousand pounds sterling in case you should think proper to make any claim upon him on that account. The said Bond has been accordingly executed in duplicate one of which makes a number in the Packet and Mr Massey returns to England in the Nottingham.

5. In our Letter by the Kent and Grenville dated the 29h. Jany. 1766 we mentioned an illegal seizure & confiscation that had been made by the Government of Malacca of 68 Chests of opium from the Cornish and Neptune Snows and the remonstrance we had made in Consequence to the General and Council of Batavia.—To this remonstrance we received an answer dated the 14h. June last wherein they mention the treaty that subsisted between them and the Government of Salangore<sup>2</sup> in justification of such a procedure acquainting us at the sametime that they waive that right for the sake of observing a good understanding between the Two Companys and therefore empower Mr Vernet their Director at Chinsura to make satisfaction to the sufferers for the losses they sustained on that occasion. This has been obtained accordingly and we must here remark that although the General and Council at Batavia took particular notice of the terms in which our remonstrance was written, we have had sufficient experience to be convinced that to have done it with less spirit would only have made it a matter of altercation instead of procuring us that redress we thought we had a right to insist upon. We shall however make it a rule in every transaction with them or the French never to deviate from that moderation you have so strongly recommended unless we are constrained to it by a different conduct on their part.

6. We acquainted you in the 57 paragraph of our Letter dated the 26h. March 1766, with some circumstances regarding a Ship

belonging to the King of Pegu which had been made over by the Noquedar<sup>3</sup> to Mr Dolben at Ingerane<sup>4</sup> who had sent her to Bengal for a lading with rice on his own account, and that to obviate the bad consequences that might otherwise ensued both to the Company and Individuals on that occasion, we had come to the resolution of securing the Ship on the King's account, and sent her back to Pegue

7 In consequence of this proceeding we have received through the hands of the President and Council of Madras a memorial drawn up by Mr Dolben, wherein he has given a very circumstantial account of his conduct during the course of that Transaction, accompanied with the necessary proofs in support of every material fact From hence it appears that the King of Pegue's Ship called the Tuthienbien put into Coringa<sup>5</sup> in distress in the month of June 1765 Mr Dolben immediately gave all the assistance the Noquedar had requested for the relief of the Ship's Crew and offered such further assistance as might be required for refitting the Ship and putting her into a condition to return to Pegue the Noquedar was accordingly furnished with several stores by Mr Dolben for that purpose but after some time had elapsed, communicated to Mr Dolben his apprehensions of incurring the King's displeasure should he return without Executing his Commissions that he therefore had neglected the refitting his Ship for the purchase of Merchandize and had appropriated the money advanced by Mr Dolben for that purpose to the provision of a returning Cargo and entreated Mr Dolben to let him have the snow Britannia which had just been sheathed & refitted for a voyage to the Eastward to return to Pegue with such articles of Merchandize as he had prepared To this Mr Dolben after much entreaty consented, taking the Noquedar's bond for the amount purchase of the Snow and the beforementioned advances, in which he sailed for Pegue leaving Mr Dolben in mortgage the King's ship the Tuthienbien, requestg he would send her to Bengal to avoid the breaking up of the Monsoon upon the Coast, and that on the return of the said Tuthienbien Mr Dolben would refit her in the completest manner, for which the Noquedar engaged to reimburse him on his return from Pegue in consideration of which and the detriment Mr Dolben might sustain by setting aside his voyage to the Eastward, the Noquedar consented by a clause in the mortgage Bond to give him liberty to load the King's Ship from Bengal back to the coast on his own account These engagements being entered into between Mr Dolben and the Noquedar the latter sailed in the Britannia for Pegue and Mr Dolben dispatched the Tuthienbien to Bengal where she was attached and sent to Pegue as already mentioned in the preceding part of this para

8 The resolution of the Board to secure and return the King's

ship to Pegu, was taken in consequence of a Letter and protest delivered in by Mr Sutton Banks in January 1766, in the former of which he positively asserted that the transaction which had passed between Mr Dolben and the Noquedar concerning that vessel had induced the King to detain the Dodaly a ship which had been sent to Pegue from this port and that the Ayton and such other Vessels as might be there at that time were in the same danger. When Mr Dolben's memorial came before us we called upon Mr Banks for the proofs or circumstances on which his assertion concerning the Dodaly &c. was grounded, but it seems he went on no other foundation than common report. In a word it too plainly appears that Mr Banks who lodged the protest, alarmed for the safety of his own property had asserted for facts what his apprehensions only suggested might be the consequences, an evident proof of which was the arrival of the Dodaly in this river four or five days after he gave in his Letter to the Board.

9. The seizure of the King's Ship being an act of the Board, we could do no less than make good to Mr Dolben the amount of the Noquedar's debt to him, which by an account accompanying his memorial amounted to A Rs. 32041-10-11 for this and the interest due thereon being altogether A Rs. 33918-8-8. We have requested the President and Council of Fort St George to pay the amount to Mr Dolben or his agents and debit our Presidency for the same. As the Board took this Step solely on Mr Banks's misrepresentation of Facts, We were of opinion that he ought to indemnify the Company for any loss. We therefore made him acquainted with these our sentiments, and he has entered into an indemnification Bond for the same the President has been desired to render him all reasonable assistance in recovering the amount from the King of Pegue, who is now in possession both of his own Ship and the Brittannia Snow.

10. Our proceedings on this occasion are transmitted in a book apart, to which we beg leave to refer for further particulars observing here that as Mr Dolben has served the Company with an unblemished character upwards of 14 years we hope the idea you may have conceived of this matter from the representation made of it in our letter of the 24h. of March 1766 will not make an unfavorable impression of that Gentleman who in this instance appears to have been actuated more by a desire to assist the Noquedar in his distress than from any private views or advantage.

11. Information having been given to the Chief and Council at Vizagapatam of the discovery of some illicit Trade on board the Mercury Packet, they transmitted to us a copy of their proceedings in an enquiry they made upon the occasion which were transmitted on the Albany and duplicates whereof makes a number in this Packet



and as it appeared to us on perusal thereof that the unlicensed goods were the property of Mr James Huggins Surgeon of the said Snow he has been dismissed the Service and sent home in the Nottingham on the terms of Charter Party

12 In our letter by the Duke of Albany, we mentioned the advices received from Canton concerning the loss of the Earl Temple in the China Seas, and of our intentions to send the Cuddalore Schooner in search of the place, to relieve any of the Crew that may yet be surviving and to make a survey of the adjacent shoals and Islands She accordingly sailed on that service the 7h March with orders to call at Madras for such further instructions or advices as that Presidency might think necessary to give the Commander

13 Agreeable to what we mentioned in our Letter of the 16h February the Vidonia Wine has been put up at Public outcry the account sales whereof comes a number in the packet, by which it appears that the consignment from Messrs Comyns Brothers & Power sold for an advance of about 40 P Cent on the original Cost and charges & that from Mr Collogan of about 29 P Cent no invoice having been received of Mr Collogans consignment as we mentioned in our last, we have valued and brought on our Books, this consignment at the same rate as that of the other house, notwithstanding this difference in the sales there seems to be little if any in the quality of the Wines, we have already taken the liberty in our Letter P Albany of giving you our sentiments regarding the Vidonia compared with that from Madeira which is far superior and we are convinced will answer better in every respect

14 Notwithstanding fifteen of your late Military officers were ordered to embark for England on board the Duke of Albany, yet since the departure of that Ship we find that only Ten obeyed our orders, We think it necessary to give you the earliest advice of this circumstance in case you should deem it equitable to call on the captain to refund the allowance made to him for the surplus number of officers more than actually embarked at the same time we ought to mention that he had our instructions to provide fresh provisions for such a number Those officers who were ordered to embark on the Duke of Albany and disobeyed that order will be sent home as charter party Passengers only

15 Mr French who dispatches this Ship from Ingelee has our directions to transmit to your Secretary a List of such persons as have embarked on the terms of Charter party and as we are uncertain how many are actually on board we have only accounted with Capt Howe in part as will appear by his receipts which we transmitted a number in the Packet

16. We have already in our Letters by the Cruttenden and Britannia informed you of the generous donation intended by Lord Clive as a fund for the Invalid Military in your service of this we have also given advice the Several Presidencies, requesting they will transmit to us a Register of such persons as shall be thought entitled to partake of this bounty that every necessary step may be taken towards carrying it into execution as soon as we receive your final orders on this subject we have also directed a general register to be opened at this Presidency which shall be duly transmitted to you.

17. The large increase made in Our Investment, we flatter ourselves will prove satisfactory to you, and the early dispatch of the ships insure its safe arrival; for the remarks thereon we beg leave to refer you to our reasons for the increase and decrease of the several parts of it which goes a number in the packet, and in general to observe that our utmost endeavours have been exerted to enlarge the purchases as much as possible.

18. The amount of the several Cargoes sent this season is as follows

By the Cruttenden . . . . .	CRs 10,00,400
„ „ Britannia . . . . .	11,46,900
„ „ Anson $\frac{1}{2}$ a lading . . . . .	5,09,400
„ „ Duke of Albany . . . . .	10,37,400
„ „ Nottingham . . . . .	10,54,500
	<hr/>
Current Rupees	47,48,600
	<hr/>

and we have the satisfaction to acquaint you that we shall dispatch the Mercury in a few days with a further Cargo with about CRs 340000 and have a balance of goods remaining in our warehouse of about two Lacks, which for want of Tonnage must remain till next season.

19. This considerable increase in your Investment, has been principally owing to the attention of Mr Sykes in the provision of the Cossimbuzar Investment & in Justice to that Gentleman we must observe that he has forebore all private Trade in raw Silk which has greatly contributed to enlarge your purchases of that Article.

20. As a number of the best manufactures of the Peninsula of India will be not only useful but are absolutely necessary for duly ascertaining all military operations we request you will be pleased to furnish this Presidency with at least 20 by the first conveyance.

21. By the Britannia we transmitted to you General books of

this presidency balanced to 30h. April 1766 & we have now the honor to send you a duplicate of the same.

22. The balance this day remaining in your Treasury in C Rs. 3952293-2 and in your Cash 28038-4-11 & the register of Diamonds by this Ship amounts to Current Rs 29982-2 0.

We are with respect

Hon'ble Sirs

Your Faithful & most obedient

humble Servants

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Richard Smith/

Claud Russel/Wm. Aldersey/Thos.

Kelsall/Chas. Rogers/Alexr. Campbell.

Fort William

Ye. 12th. March 1767

*Postscript*:—We have drawn upon you by this ship 1 set of Bills of exchange vizt. to Francis Charlton for CRs. 4444-7 or £sg. 500 payable at 2/3d. & 365 days sight to William Brightwell Sumner and Anslem Beaumont.

We have likewise granted receipts for the following sums vizt.

1 Sett of receipts to William Penny Gunner of the Hector for C. Rs 3500 &

1 Do to the Hon'ble Captain Howe of the Nottingham for C. Rs 8770

Their several amounts have been received into your Treasury for which Credit is given in your books.

We are with respect

Hon'ble Sirs

Your faithful & most Obt. Humble

Servants

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Richard Smith/

Claude Russell/Charles Rogers/

Alexander Campbell/W. Aldersey/

Thos. Kelsall.

Fort William

12h. March 1767

## LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1767

*Letter of Vêrelst on assuming charge—the situation reviewed.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors &c. &c. &c.

Hon'ble Sirs

When I consider that I have the honor to succeed Lord Clive in the administration of this Presidency I should be diffident of my own ability to preserve the reputation of his Government, but that I find myself encouraged by your favorable sentiments, and supported by a firm and unanimous Council and Committee.

Under these fortunate circumstances and conscious that my best endeavours will ever be directed to the faithful discharge of my Duty I shall proceed with Boldness in prosecuting those measures which you have already been pleased to approve, and in which the late Right Hon'ble President made such progress, that little more remains for his successor than to preserve your affairs in the same channel through which they flow at present with so much success.

The confidence subsisting among the several members of the Council and Committee affords the happiest pressage of the continuance of that series of prosperity with which your affairs have lately been crowned; and you may be assured it will be my study as it is really my inclination to preserve that harmony which cannot but conduce as well to your interest as to the happiness of the Settlement.

Although I am determined cautiously to avoid any appearance of acting independently of the Board yet shall I rigorously exact from your servants in general the degree of respect that is due to the station in which I have the honor to serve the Company. I have seen the effects of this fatal relaxation of authority, from which proceeded I am convinced the general depravity and Licentiousness of manners which prevailed at the time Lord Clive took charge of this Government.

It is with pleasure I can inform you that the present situation of the country and of the Presidency leaves me but little room for doubt that we shall for some time at least enjoy the most perfect Tranquility abroad and concord at home. The preparations to disturb the repose of the Empire which are making by the Duranee King, appear to me too distant to affect us or our Allies for this

season; and it is highly probable that he will never venture to advance nearer than Delhi.—

The latest intelligence advises that he is still distant from Delhi about 250 Miles. It is likewise reported that he has dispatched his deputies to demand the Revenues of the different Provinces of the Empire and that an Agent is now on his way to Bengal with a Commission to the above effect. For my own part when I consider the prodigious length of the March, the numberless difficulties which must be encountered, the opposition of the Seiks—the jealousy that must seize the many independant nations who separate us from Abdallah, the advanced season of the year and especially the great reputation in arms, which we have established over all India, I have but little apprehension that he will be able to create any disturbance this year. I am even inclined to believe that a prince who has the reputation of policy will never stake his fortune on the precarious issue of an attempt that might be attended with dangers and difficulties more than proportioned to the advantages he can expect from success. Prudence however requires that we should not indulge in too much security nor be wanting in those measures which are necessary to Inspire with confidence our Ally Sujah Dowla, the King, and those other country powers whose interests lead them to oppose Abdalla and to form a barrier to the Nabobs dominions.

We have for this purpose resolved upon a plan the particulars of which appear on the face of our proceedings the 23rd. February, with a view that all our military operations might be maturely concerted before Colonel Smith repaired to the Army, and that nothing might remain but the immediate Execution, should we find the Enemy are likely to advance to our Frontier.

The motion of the five Battalions of Sepoys to Serajepore<sup>1</sup> will sufficiently indicate to all the Country Powers our determined resolution not only to stand upon our own defence but to extend our protection to all those who are connected with us in friendship or engaged to us by Treaties so far as may be consistent with our own security and interest. Yet we shall avoid issuing orders to the second brigade and the remainder of the third to join the above detachment until the circumstances of our Intelligence render it absolutely necessary, as this motion might alarm the minds of the people and in some degree impede the Collections and other public business.

As to the Mahrattas we have nothing to apprehend from them on this quarter. Their Chief Roguantrou is in full march to the Southward and by our last advices had reached Navagaut;<sup>2</sup> but with what views we cannot yet determine.

Jounajee the Mahratta Chief of Naugpore seems well disposed to Cultivate our Friendship and to promote the negotiation respecting the cession upon certain conditions of Cuttack to the Honorable Company. You have already been informed by the end proposed in this Treaty, to negotiate which I have at the Committees Recommendation wrote for Jounajees Vaqueel to proceed to the Presidency and you may depend on my utmost attention to your honor and security in every step I shall take in so important a transaction.

From the valuable Cargoes already shipped in the Cruttenden, Brittaina, Anson, Albany, and Nottingham as well as the goods provided for the Mercury and those that will be lying on hand in the Warehouse for want of Tonnage, you will perceive that our utmost endeavours have been exerted to produce an increase of your Investment. Nothing in my power indeed shall be wanting to forward a measure by means of which alone you can hope to receive the full advantages of your encreased revenues; but I am sensible that many obstacles will occur from the great flow of money now in the hands of Foreign Nations, and from the uncommon scarcity of Weavers that prevails at all the factories and Aurungs, whether this scarcity of weavers proceeds from the troubles in which the Country was so lately overwhelmed or whether it arises from the general decline of Trade at all the ports in India it is certain that great numbers of the manufacturers in cloth have deserted the profession to seek for subsistence from a less precarious calling, hence follow those unavoidable disputes which so frequently happen with the French and Dutch who leave no means untried to seduce the weavers from our Service.

The Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar have been apprehensive that they should be under the necessity of raising the wages of their workmen or of renouncing all hopes of encreasing the Investment, such a step would prove prejudicial to your affairs unless we could at the same time come to some equitable Compromise with the other European Establishments to check an evil equally felt by them and by us.

We are now taking every possible step towards securing a still further increase of your Investment for the ensuing season. All the Factories and aurungs are fully supplied with the necessary advances and there is at present the greatest prospect that the business will be conducted with Zeal and Alacrity.

The same attention will be paid to the collections of the Revenues; to enforce, regulate, and establish which, both with respect to the balance of the present year, and the statements for the ensuing

General Puna, I propose next month making a Tour of the Provinces for as long a time as the affairs of the Presidency will admit of my absence. This measure was recommended by Lord Clive to the Committee and I flatter myself it will be the means not only of concilliating the minds of the people to our Government as it will furnish me with the means of redressing grievances and correcting abuses, which must otherwise have escaped my Knowledge.

I have the honor to be with the most grateful acknowledgements and Respect.

Fort William  
17th. March 1767

Hon'ble Sirs,  
H. Verelst

## 7

## LETTER DATED 30 MARCH 1767

*Dyers instructed in the principles of Chemistry wanted from Europe for improving the colour of Cossimbazar silk—prospect of large investment—a French complaint of interruption—survey of Channel Creek, Burdwan and Midnapur—Rennell as Surveyor General—re: Batta, Sonnavats and Arcot coins—intransigence of the Mayor's Court—Treaty with Nawab Saif-ud-Doula—confused state of every office in the Settlement.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable

1. We have already had the honor to address you this season under the following dates.

6th. Septr.	1766 p Lord Camden via Madras
28h. Novr.	} 1766 „ Cruttenden
13h. Decr.	
20h. Jany.	1767 „ Brittainia
16h. Feby.	do „ Duke of Albany &
12h. March	do „ Nottingham

2. Our address of the 28th. November by the Cruttenden was under the Established heads and contained a full detail of Our Transactions in Your affairs until that period. We shall now by the

Mercury communicate such farther advices as are material and at the same time reply to such parts of your commands received by the ships of last season as remain unanswered in our letters before mentioned.

3. In our last advices by the Nottingham we informed you that the amount of the investment this season dispatched to that time was Current Rupees 17,48600 and that we should send you a further Cargo P Mercury of Company's Rupees 3,40000, after which we might have remaining in Our Warehouse about Two Lacks notwithstanding we have laden upon the Mercury as many goods as she could possibly receive—and also taken upon the Company's account the tonnage of the office privelege. We are sorry to acquaint you that the Invoice of her Cargo amounts to no more than current rupees 2,77,720. By our being thus disappointed in our expectation of the Mercury the whole Investment dispatched home this season is only CRs. 50,26,520 and the remains in our Warehouse for want of Tonnage and from the dispatches of a larger quantity of goods than we before calculated upon being lately received from the Aurungs is increased to C Rs 55,57,320.

4. Our being disappointed of the Devonshire as mentioned in our letter of the 20h. January last has laid us under the necessity of enhancing the Cargoes of the other Ship's beyond their usual value and we have now goods in our warehouse to the amount of five lacks of rupees which must remain with us until the return of next years shipping.

5. Notwithstanding the Cossimbuzar Investment has been so much encreased this year and the Goods both in quality and dye are equal to what they have been for some years past we are of opinion that the Color of the silks may be much improved if Dyers who are well instructed in the principles of chemistry were sent out from Europe we therefore beg leave to recommend to your consideration whether such a project may not tend to your advantage.

6. To the remarks made by the Committee of Aurungs on the different assortments of Goods of the Present years Investment which were transmitted in our Packet per Nottingham we shall only add that you may depend on our attention towards the encrease and improvement of this important concern and we have the satisfaction to advise you that we have at present the most favorable prospect of a large Investment for the ensuing season.

7. The strictest attention has been paid to the orders signified to us in our Letter of the 26h. March directing one of your Servants to superintend the dispatch of every ship to Europe.



8 The fine piece goods for the latter ships generally arrive with us so late that we are under the necessity of sending them on board the last unless we should keep back a part of the coarse goods to give the others a place in the middle of the Ship which might greatly retard her dispatch We shall however take every precaution for getting them on Board as early as possible giving directions to the persons appointed to superintend the dispatch to transmit to you a particular account of such goods as may be returned but we have the satisfaction to observe that the whole of the Cargoes of the Ships of this season have been safely received on board

9 The French have lately made some complaints of interruption to their silk investment which by the answer we received from the Gentlemen at Cossimbuzar appeared to have little foundation Their complaints have already been repeated by a deputation from Chandernagore addressed to the President which with his reply appears on the face of your consultations and to which we beg leave to refer assuring you that we shall give them every assistance that depends upon us or is consistent with your Political Interest and intercede in their behalf whenever it may rest with the Country Government

10 As none of the members of the Board who adjusted the freight for the Treasure sent to China on the Argo Frigate in 1764 are now present we are unable to assign their reasons for fixing it at so high a rate further than what appears on the face of the consultations when the resolution passed

11 Pursuant to the orders contained in your letter of the 19th February 1766 a particular account has been made out of the expences of the Cuddalore Schooner when she attended the Argo to China in 1764 which was transmitted in the Nottinghams Packet and a duplicate is now forwarded by the Mercury

12 Neither the Captain nor any one of the officers of the Cuddalore Schooner when she [went?] to China with the Argo Frigate being now here we have been unable to obtain an account of the Opium and other private Trade sent in them to China but shall not fail on their return to make the enquiries you have directed

13 In our Letter by the Duke of Albany we mentioned the examination that in consequence of your orders had been made into the conduct of Captain Roach late Commr of the Fort William but the Scrutiny into the cause of the mortality on board the Lord Anson we have not been able to comply with for want of evidence, none of the officers or passengers who came out in her being upon the Spot

14. We advised in our Letter P Cruttenden of the measures that had been taken for the Survey of Channel Creek and by the Brittaniam transmitted a Chart of it made by Mr Plaisted. He is now prosecuting a more minute survey of that Channel and the other rivers to the Eastward which when effected we shall be the better able to determine how far this passage is likely to answer during the southerly monsoon.

15. Your Snow Syren which returned hither from Fort Marlborough in November last being unfit for the service of the West Coast, has at the recommendation of the Master attendant been converted into a Schooner for the service of the River.

16. As the reasons for Encreasing Mr De Gloss's allowance on his being appointed a Captain in the Corps of Engineers do not appear on the records we are equally unable to account for them as we have been for the high freight of the Treasure sent on board the Argo as mentioned in the 10h. Para', however we must in justice to that gentleman declare that he has behaved much to our satisfaction, in the surveys which have been made under his direction in the Midnapore and Burdwan Provinces as also those he is now employed on, and considering the great danger and fatigue as well as the expense that duty is attended with, We are persuaded you will not think his allowances unreasonable.

17. So much depends upon accurate surveys both in Military operations and at coming at a true knowledge of the value of your Possessions that we have employed every person on this service who could be spared and were capable of it.—But as the work must ever be imperfect while it is in separate and unconnected plans we have appointed Captain Rennel a young man of distinguished merit in this branch Surveyor General, and directed him to form one General Chart from those already made and such as are now in hand as they can be collected in. This though attended with great labor does not prevent his prosecuting his own surveys, the fatigue of which with the desperate wounds he has lately received in one of them have already left him but a shattered constitution. This consideration and his being deprived of every means of advantage while he is thus continually moving up and down a Country unexplored by Europeans to the utmost risk of his life we hope will justify us for encreasing his salary to 300 Rupees P Month which indeed may be considered as only a just reward for past services & sufferings. We beg leave to recommend it as a measure well worth your attention the keeping your Corps of Engineers constantly supplied properly instructed in that particular branch.

18. The reason for purchasing another house for the Nabob on

which you are pleased to remark in your Letter of the 24h. December was that the one before brought for him had been appropriated to the use of a Council room & the public offices, and the same is still occupied for that purpose.

19. As it will be a long time before the interior Buildings in the New Fort can be completed and it is highly necessary that the Junior servants stationed in the Secretary's & Accountants offices should be at hand for the more readily attending to their duty. We have come to the resolution of having an additional wing constructed to the Northward of the Government House for a consultation room &c. and to communicate by a varanda to the present Council House which may then be laid out in apartments for the Assistants, the charge attendg. this additional Wing will be inconsiderable and we flatter ourselves will meet with yr. approval.

20. You may rely on one paying the utmost attention to your repeated injunctions for our yielding every assistance that may be in our power to the Presidency of Fort Marlboro' the greater part of their Indent for the present year has already been complied with. The four pipes of Madeira and four pipes of Vidonia wine ordered for that settlement were directed to be sent thither on the Berkshire snow, a Country vessel but after proceeding down the river were unfortunately prevented from getting on board by the weather. We shall be careful to forward them by the very first opportunity that offers.

21. We have complied with your orders for encreasing the supplies of provisions for St. Helena by the Shipping of this season but we have not as yet received any indents from them for materials for building a Fort in consequence of what is mentioned in the 29h. Para' of your Commands dated the 13h. December 1765.

22. The Ajax and Marquis de Castres are the only ships of the French Company that have imported here this season they have both been returned with Cargoes for Europe the former in December, the latter the beginning of this month.

23. The Revd. Mr Blomer in consequence of his appointment to be one of your Chaplains at this Presidency arrived here in December and we shall take care to recover the amount of this Bond to the Hon'ble Company for £100 out of his growing Salary as you have been pleased to direct.

24. We continue to pay off your debt at Interest as the Bonds become due and have the pleasure to inform you that we have already paid off to the amount of Fifty five Laaks and there remains about Twenty Laaks.

25. In consequence of the directions contained in your Letter of the 24th December 1765 the management of the Company's Brick Kilns has been transferred from the Chief Engineer to the Committee of works who judged it would be most for your Interest to be supplied with Bricks by contract in this they have succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations, having concluded a contract with Messrs Randall and Achinson to be supplied by the 30h. June 1768 with 240 Laaks of Bricks at 5r. 8a. which they represent will be attended with a saving to the Hon'ble Company of nearly a lack of Rupees. The contractors on consideration of their providing them on such reasonable terms are under certain restrictions to have the exclusive privilege of supplying the Inhabitants with this article.

26. In our letter by the Cruttenden we mentioned that Captain Mair who Commanded a battallion of Sepoys in your Service had been Cashiered by a Court Martial held on him at Patna for having drawn pay for his battalion by false abstracts by which means he had defrauded the Hon'ble Company of four thousand one hundred and two Rupees, the same having been demanded of him after his arrival at Calcutta he took the opportunity of privately absconding & we are informed went to Europe in a French Ship. We shall nevertheless carry on the Prosecution against him in the Mayor's Court and endeavor to obtain an attachment of the effects he may have left behind.

27. We have appointed the first day of May next for the sales of Woollens, Lead, and Iron imported by the Ships of last Season as also of the Cotton received from Bombay by the Duke of Albany & Nottingham.

28. In order that we might send as large a Cargo as possible on board the Mercury the Captain and officers have not been permitted to take in any goods on account of their privilege leaving it to you to make them such consideration, as you may deem equitable for the same.

29. We have duly attended to your orders in paragraph 62 of your letter of the 24th December 1765 and have accordingly given directions to the Sub Treasurer to open separate  
 26h March 1767. heads in your books for the profits arising from the Batta of Rupees either by exchange in the Buzar or recoinage of Sannauts into Siccas and also the gain proceeding from the net Duties collected on the coinage of Merchants and on the savings from the late Improvements in the method of Coinage. What these are appears from the Assay-master's letter transmitted by the Nottingham and also by the monthly mint accounts.—

30. We have hitherto observed it as a rule that when the

demand for Sunnauts in the Buzar raised the value of that specie so as to produce a greater profit to the Company than by Coinage then to direct the Treasury Podar to exchange the sonnauts for Arcots or any other specie we may want at the higher Batta which is brought to your Credit—

31 Mr Richard Barwell has requested to assure you that he retains a most grateful sense of the honor done him by the favorable mention you make of him in your General Letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1765 & 17<sup>th</sup> May 1766 and further begs leave to acquaint you that it shall ever be his study to continue to merit your favour and approbation

32 In consequence of what we mentioned in the 63<sup>rd</sup> para<sup>r</sup> of our General letter p Cruttenden we have fixed upon a spot on the other side of the River opposite Surmans Garden's as the most convenient place for building a new hospital upon—A plan and estimate of the expense of which we have directed to be laid before us

33 We acquainted you in our letter P Nottingham that several of the late officers and others whom we had ordered home by the ships of this season had found means to disappoint our intentions by absconding or concealing themselves Two of them Messrs Nicol & Davie sought protection in Shuja Dowlas Country & as we have since been informed carried off with them a quantity of small arms with which they not only supplied the Country powers but were actually training up for them a body of men to our discipline The President having wrote to Suja Dowla in consequence, they have been delivered up to Sir Robert Barker at Illahabad & we have ordered them to be sent under a strong guard to Monghyr to be detained as prisoners at large in that Garrison until an opportunity offers of sending them to Europe for by experience we have found that in so extensive a place as Calcutta it is in vain to expect a compliance with our orders for embarking while the persons concerned have the liberty of the Town and Keeping them in confinement within the limits of the Charter subjects us to many inconveniences

34 We received intimation from the President and Council at Fort Marlborough that Mr William Atkinson one of your servants at that presidency had relinquished the Service on account of his health and embarking on board a ship for China under pretence of returning to England from thence had come to Bengal upon enquiry we found Mr Atkinson had been employed as an attorney in the Mayor's Court here who acknowledged the circumstances alleged against him by the Gentlemen at Fort Marlborough This unwarrantable conduct of Mr Atkinson has been aggravated by his

30 MARCH 1767

neglecting to obey our repeated orders for repairing to England one of the Ships of this season, but we shall take care to employ them in a more effectual manner by the return of next years ship notwithstanding the Mayor's Court now afford him protection not complying with our desire to dismiss him from their Court.

35. Mr Watts having signified his intentions of returning to Europe this season resigned your service and took his passage on the Duke of Albany.

36. Mr Picarce has repaired to his station on the 6th of December at the Establishment within the time prescribed for him in your Letter of the 13th. December.

37. In our Letter by the Britannia we advised that although in the course of our enquiries into the Conduct of Captain Bowdoin of the Cruttenden it did not appear that he had taken any private Trade on board in the Course of the passage yet that from reports it was suspected he had found means to get some ashore here which we have not however been able to discover it has any foundation.

38. With regard to the iron landed from the Britannia of which a particular account is required in your Commands of the 10th of December 1765, that received on the Hon'ble Company's account corresponds exactly with the quantity specified by the invoice of that ship as you will observe by an account thereof which has already been transmitted and We do not find that the Captain or officers landed more on their own account than appears in the manifest by that Ship to be allowed for their Indulgences.

39. We are sorry it has not been in our power to transmit to you the books of the Subordinate Factories, at the same time with our general Books the only ones we have been furnished with are those of Dacca, of Chittagong Revenues, Midnapore and of Patna the latter brought up to the 30th. April 1765 we have repeated orders for their being compleated as soon as possible and they shall in future accompany our General books as you have been pleased to direct.

40. The Master Attendants Books have been new modelled and sent to the Committee of inspection and shall in future be transmitted with the other books of the Presidency.

41. By advices from Madras we have the pleasure to learn that the Anson and Pigot had safely imported with them and were to proceed to Europe with the utmost dispatch.

42. The Gentlemen at Bombay having sent us Extracts of your Letter to them of the 12th. September recd. Overland viz. Bussac

We observe with pleasure that Eight ships are taken up this season for the Coast and Bay, for with the Goods now on hand and the large Investment we have reason to expect we shall at least require six of them and this we have already advised the Two presidencies of that the earliest measures may be concerted for supplying our several occasions

43 The presence of Mr Cartier at Calcutta as a member of the Select Committee being necessary, he is lately come down from Dacca and Mr Kelsall has been appointed to succeed him in the Chiefship of that Factory

44 In addition to our Indent for Military Stores we request you will be pleased to send out six light brass 24 Pounder Guns of the new construction

45 The Treaty entered into with the Nabob Syf O Dowla and us on his accession to the subahship in May last after the death of his brother now makes a number in the Packet—it is executed by all the members at the Board but Lord Clive and General Carnac who were then up the Country —

46 We are sorry to acquaint you that advices are just received of the Cantonments at Bankeypore being entirely consumed by fire. The Artillery Park and Magazine happily escaped the Common disaster a disaster that has been fatal to most of the officers by the loss of everything they had—this is the second instance of the kind that has happened there in the space of a twelve month and the Sepoy Cantonments at Monghyr were destroyed in the same manner last year. These frequent accidents have induced us to determine on rebuilding the Cantonments with Brick which in the end will prove less expensive, for when once completed accidents of this kind cannot happen and they will require very little expence to keep them in repair

47 We are concerned in being disappointed of sending you the Military Paymaster Generals books this season. That Gentleman acquaints us in his justification that the accountant under him having twice forced a balance he himself was obliged to take them in hand and after the greatest labor, despaired of almost ever properly adjusting them they are so very erroneous, and as he fears full of false entries. So glaring an instance of neglect and inattention in the accountant Mr Keighly could not be passed unnoticed and as examples only can bring the servant to a true sense of their duty. We were unanimous in our Resolution to suspend him your Service had not Mr Kelsall the Military Paymaster General interposed in his behalf acquainting us that he should be sorry to be the instrument of the young mans ruin and requested a mitigation of the sentence



Saif-ud-Daulah





48. We therefore determined on depriving him of one years rank only and fixed his standing as first in the List of the year 1765 which brings him next above Mr Charles William Broughton, as a further punishment we have ordered him down from Allahabad where he acted as Commissary to the 3rd. Brigade to write under the secretary whose report of twelve months good behaviour and assiduity only can save him from being suspended the service.

49. We acquainted you in our letter P Cruttenden that we have appointed an Occasional Committee to make the enquiries directed in the 34h. para' of our General letter under date the 26h. April 1765 the 72 & 83rd Paragraph of that of the 24 Decr. 1765 & the 74 & 75 and 84 para's of the letters dated 19h. February 1765. Their Proceeding accordingly accomnied (*sic*) with a letter containing a summary of the whole were laid before us just in time to be transmitted in this Packet so that we have not an opportunity of making any remarks but from a very cursory view.

50. These proceedings may serve to shew the diligence of the Gentlemen composing the Committee but are still very imperfect owing to the want of the materials necessary for assisting them in their enquiries, such in general has been the confused state of every office in this Settlement that vouchers are now hardly to be found and the irregular or rather the inexplicitness of accounts can but ill supply their wants.

51. From the materials the Committee could collect together they have formed a general account of the Charges Hospital said to be incurred by His Majesty's Troops in Bengal as entered after their proceedings the 18h. March but on referring it would appear that in most of the Surgeons bills the Bombay Detacht. is blended with the King's Troops without a possibility of remedy as no returns can now be found to ascertain the strength of the different Corps nor any Hospital Reports however the Committee from all the information they can learn are of opinion, and we think it is probable, that the Bombay detach. could form a very inconsiderable part of the expense. This account imperfect as it is amounting to C Rs. 51005-7-5 is certified to be true extracts from the Books &c. of the different Employs by the oath of Mr Floyer (The President of the Committee) taken before the Mayor.

52. The Committee's researches into Mr Parker Hatley's accounts are also very little satisfactory and only prove the impracticability of tracing the fraud pointed out, as the Commissary's Returns which could be the only check have not been found. It seems that very few of Mr Hatley's Bills were properly certified and we think the blame chiefly lies with those that paid them and those

that afterwards passed the accounts but inattention in general so much reigned till lately in the Camp accounts that retrospection would be an endless & ungrateful Labor For your satisfaction the Committee have entered Extracts from the Paymaster General's Books and vouchers of all that relate to Mr Hatley properly authenticated upon oath taken before the Mayor

53 After the proceedings of the 19h March we find as particular an account of the Charge of French Prisoners as could be formed from the Buxey's Books and the few vouchers now in being amounting to Current Rs 3,29,307 6 5 It appears regular and explicit for two or three years but afterwards quite the Contrary This account being likewise authenticated in the manner you desire we hope it will be sufficient to constitute and support your claim upon the French Company, although not so full and particular as public accounts ought to be By the above you will observe how little able the Committee have been to give the satisfaction you require concerning the Buxey's accounts transmitted by the Vansittart

54 The Committee proceedings with regard to Captain Roach's accounts are rather inconclusive for they neither admit nor refute that Gentleman's reasoning in reply to your remarks in the 74 & 75 para's of your Letter of the 19h February but confine their demand upon him merely to an overcharge of C Rs 284 12 for premium of Exchange which he has refunded We must needs say the arguments made use of by Captain Roach appear specious and forcible and in justice to him it is our duty to remark that to his great care and attention to the Troops on board must be ascribed the remarkable healthy state they arrived in and that he had the sanction of Colonel Peaches orders for supplying them with wine, which he might have sold here for 4 or 500 Rs and which he only charged at 250 a circumstance we think much to his Credit Especially as the same moderation was not observed by other Commanders on the like occasions

55 With respect to the balance of 11674 4 6 to the debit of account deposits in the General books—The Committee by a statement annexed to their proceedings of the 18h of October discover it to be an over payment to the Estate of Major Kilpatrick, which they conclude to have arisen by allowing the Estate the loss by the fall of Batta on Sicca Rupees between the time deposits were made and the money being repaid they are confirmed in this conjecture by a resolution of Council the first of May 1758 to make good the losses of all persons possessed of Calcutta Siccas by the fall of Batta from 20 to 16 P Cent upon the whole the amount of

the deposit for account of Major Kilpatrick very nearly equals the balance in question this appears plausible enough and we submit it to your consideration there are neither representatives nor assets in India to make good the demand.

56. It's with pleasure we acquaint you that the Collections of the Burdwan Revenues have been so well kept up this season that the Rajah was enabled to comply fully with his engagements to the Company before the expiration of the year and that all former balances have likewise been paid off.

57. The balance this day remaining in your Treasury is C. Rs. 4374423-4 and in your Cash Current Rupees 34168-14-11 and the Register of Diamonds by this Vessel amounts to Current Rupees 42115-14-11.

We are with great respect

Hon'ble

Your faithful and most obedient

humble Servants

H. Verelst/Claude Russel/Wm. Aldersey/

Thos. Kelsall/Charles Floyer/Alexr.

Campbell.

Fort William

30h. March 1767.

*Postscript*:—58. We have drawn upon you by this Ship Two sets of Bills of Exchange vizt.

One set of Huzzromull Exe'r to the Estate of Omichund deceased for Current Rs. 1500 or £ Sg. 156-5 payable to the Governor or the Treasurer of the Foundling hospital for the time being at 2s./1 & 365 days.

One set to Huzzromull Exe'r to the Estate of Omichund dece'd for C Rs. 1500 or £ Stg. 156-5 payable to the Governor or the Treasurer of the Magdalen Hospital for the time being at 2/1d. & 365 days.

We have likewise granted receipts for the following sums vizt.

One set of receipts to Captn. Henry Gardiner of

the Snow Mercury for . . . . . C Rs. 8888-0-0

One Set do to Mr Edwd. Massey for . . . . . 1728-0-0

Total C Rs. 10616-0-0

Their several amounts have been received into your Treasury for which credit is given in your books.

59 Since writing the above we have the pleasure to acquaint you that we have received your commands by the Devonshire which have been forwarded to us by the Gentlemen at Madras

60 The President has just informed us that he has received the amount of our demands upon the Dutch for the opium seized at Malacca

We are with great respect  
Hon'ble

Your faithful and most obedient  
humble Servants

H Verelst/John Cartier/Claude Russell/  
Thomas Kelsall/Charles Floyer/Alex  
Campbell

Fort William

# 8

## LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1767

*Report of Abdali's intended invasion—a plan for defence—the policy of maintaining balance of power in India—negotiations with Janon*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon ble Sirs,

1 By the Nottingham we had the honor of Transmitting to you the proceedings of this Committee to the 10h March, a duplicate of our address by the Duke of Albany the 19h February and the Presidents country correspondence to the date of the Dispatch

2 The report of Abdalla's intended invasion was the only circumstance which occurred to engage your particular attention during the short space of Time that intervened between the departure of those two Ships We could add nothing with certainty to the intelligence we received and the plan of operations we adopted both which stood fully expressed on the proceedings and Correspondence it was therefore thought advisable to avoid giving you the trouble to peruse sentiments that could only be founded upon conjecture

3. At the time Lord Clive resigned the administration of your affairs, some distant Rumours were heard of Abdalla's ambitious projects, and you will accordingly perceive that His Lordship has touched upon this subject, in the sketch of your situation in Bengal which he delivered to the Committee before his departure—Circumstances would not admit he should enter upon particulars, and it would seem indeed as if his Lordship were of opinion the prospect of so distant an invasion was attended with too many difficulties to be pursued with success or even seriously proposed.

4. In these sentiments we also joined from a Persuasion that Abdalla was too politic to Embark his Kingdom his honor and life upon the very doubtful issue of an expedition from which he could not expect advantages proportioned to the dangers the fatigues he must encounter and the expense of blood he must necessarily incur.

5. We considered that he was divided from us by an immense Tract of Country almost equally impervious during the heats of summer and the rains of autumn. That this Country was inhabited by a variety of different & independent Princes and nations whose natural interests would prompt them to oppose the Progress of the Usurper. That he was actually engaged in War and had met with an obstinate resistance from the Seiks, his ancient and irreconcilable Foes. That the Mahrattas a power equally formidable with himself were aspiring at the same superiority and would therefore incline from views of policy, as well as motives of jealousy and former enmity to set themselves in opposition. That the Jauts and Rohillas Potent nations who form a kind of barrier to the Dominions of his Majesty and of Shujah Dowla, and who hold their possessions now in perfect independency would therefore be averse to changes which could not operate to their advantage. That the English could not be equally the objects of their jealousy with Abdulla since in ceding his conquered country to Shujah Dowla, they had given so recent and unexpected a proof of their moderation and lastly, that if to the evident interests and Prejudice's of those several Powers we joined our firm and declared Resolution of opposing the Shah with forces who have acquired so high a Military reputation—the Usurper would either be deterred from the Prosecution of his arduous attempt or such a confederacy united as might probably keep the danger remote from your Possessions and secure those of your allies.—

6. These were the conceptions We formed upon the first intelligence received that Abdallah was advancing to Delhi. The advices soon became more certain of his success against the Seiks and progress towards the Capital. We had also farther advices of his declared intention against Shujah Doulah and these Provinces to which he was instigated by the intrigues of Cossim Ali Cawn.

Under these circumstances it was thought expedient to concert a plan of defence and reduce to a regular system the measures we thought necessary for checking his Progress, for animating our allies and rousing the Country Powers to a Sense of their own danger—So that the outlines of our operations should be clearly marked out before Colonel Smith repaired to the Army

7 Experience of the disposition of the Natives of this Country has taught that vigorous measures will ever produce powerful effects on the minds of a cautious dilatory people, who hesitate about forming resolutions, until they are impelled by necessity or strongly influenced by the passion of fear or Hope To remain inactive spectators of an invasion which threatened to overwhelm the whole Political system of all India would have dispirited the King and Shujah Dowlah, whose dependence was on our support, it would have given courage to the invader, and it might induce the Country powers from motives of fear to join his standard and to act contrary to their interests and Inclinations in a general confederacy which a timely declaration of our Resolutions would probably prevent, or even convert to our own purposes in proof that these sentiments were not merely speculative you are requested to consult the letters from the King and Shujah Dowla, whereby it will appear how earnest they were for a composition with the Shah It is beyond doubt the King was strongly actuated by Fear to make unbecoming submissions and that nothing but our influence with him could prevent his sending Minire a Dowla with acknowledgements unworthy of his royal dignity, and highly impolitic at a juncture when firmness and spirit became essentially necessary

8 With these views and with the farther intention of demonstrating to the Powers of India our religious observance of Treaties and engagements as well as that we were under no apprehensions from Abdalla's boasted superiority of numbers, we determined on the plan entered on our proceedings Immediate advice of this our resolution was dispatched to the King & Sujah Dowlah The Rohillas were informed of our intentions by a letter from the President The same intimations were given to the Mahrattas The report was spread over the whole country, and probably it hath already reached Abdalla Camp, that the English are making preparations to preserve the Freedom and tranquility of the Empire—

9 This conjecture is rendered the more probable as we are just advised by Sir Robert Barker in a letter from Illahabad, that Abdallah is returning back to Lahore, having compromised for the sum of twentyfive Laaks his demands on the Indian Powers Whether we are really to ascribe this sudden motion to the Ideas

he may have conceived to the difficulties he is likely to encounter or whether he means again to resume his designs we cannot affirm with certainty, most likely it is that he would have advanced to Delhi and remained there during the rainy season instead of returning back 10 days March to Lahore if he had not wholly relinquished the thoughts of invading Indostan.

10. At all events this retreat will greatly retard his project. It will encourage the Seiks to raise up fresh obstructions to his progress, and it will afford us sufficient leisure for every necessary preparation; since for this season at least we have nothing to apprehend. We are indeed of opinion that all danger is in future removed from that quarter, as we learn from good authority that the valour, the discipline, and the number of our Troops have been reported to Abdallah with such exaggerations as seemed then to stagger his resolution and there being no other power from whom we need conceive any great apprehensions we flatter ourselves that we may venture to Congratulate you on the prospect there is of lasting Tranquility in Bengal.

11. Policy however requires we should hold ourselves in constant readiness to oppose every attempt to destroy that Equality and balance of Power among the Princes of the Empire, in which consists our greatest security. It is of little consequence to us who shall be the superior; it is the gaining a superiority and the aggrandisement of any prince or nation which would prove dangerous to your Possessions. We are sensible however this maxim is to be restrained within bounds and that the Hon'ble Company's interests require we should guard against the dangerous consequences of extending our Military operations and enlarging our Frontier beyond the Circle of the Nabob's Dominions. Hence we considered it the more necessary we should be explicit in assigning the reasons which induced us to resolve that our Troops should now Cross the Caramnassa to the support of our Allies. The instructions of this Committee to Colonel Smith will farther explain our sentiments and convince you of our fixed determination to act defensively only and to proceed no farther than good faith required and the present circumstances rendered expedient.

12. For this reason it was that we made no propositions to the Jauts Rohillas or Mahrattas least we should encumber ourselves with fruitless and troublesome engagements. The latter might probably have demanded the cession of countries which in time would render them more formidable to us than the power of Abdallah, and it was impossible to suggest to the former any expedient whereby our alliance should become useful to them, except that of advancing an army to their assistance which would necessarily carry our Military operations to a great distance beyond our own Frontier.



13 Upon the whole the Committee joined in opinion that vigorous measures although more confined would sufficiently influence the several powers to declare against Abdalla and that if they failed of the proposed effect We ought not to proceed farther you may therefore rest assured we shall steadily pursue this conduct and never be induced by any considerations to form connections that may lead us to distant expeditions

14 When however we consider the many unforeseen dangers and sudden irruptions to which your Possessions in Bengal are perpetually exposed, our duty obliges us to request in the most earnest Manner, that you will not suffer your attention to be diverted from completing your Military Establishment in the manner proposed by Lord Clive We now transmit a duplicate of the general return which went a number in the Nottinghams Packet whence you will perceive that owing to a variety of accidents the Regiments are now less complete in effective men than when we represented their condition by the Admiral Stevens

15 We also beg leave to observe that with respect to firearms we should find the Troops much distressed were they under the immediate necessity of entering upon action The Pergunnah Battalions are scarce half armed notwithstanding we detained Twenty Two Chests of arms destined for your Presidency at Bombay It therefore becomes of the most serious consequence that the Military Storekeepers Indents be fully complied with and that we should in future receive the annual supply of Musquetry required in the former Letters from this Committee

16 In order to remove the repeated complaints from the Army of the deficiency of draught Bullocks we have come to the Resolution of supplying the Artillery by a method which we hope will answer better than that by contract  
 Mar 24th Colonel Smith has proposed that the Government shall engage to provide twelve hundred large Draught Cattle in the Purnea Province, that these shall be fed by contract, and that the contract shall be given in the usual manner to the Lowest Bidder The proposal appearing to us well calculated to remove complaints to obviate the evil Consequences that may arise from a deficiency of Draught Bullocks, and to ease the natives of many unavoidable acts of oppression without incurring any extraordinary charge we have accordingly recommended to the President to enter upon the necessary steps for providing the number of cattle proposed at the expiration of our engagements with the present contractors —

17. To complete the Regiment and to put our Army on the most respectable footing we applied to the Presidency at Madras for

a supply of 400 Europeans Rank & file which they are requested to replace from the first of our Recruits that shall arrive on the Coast. They were also apprized of the plan we had formed of opposing Abdallah, with the view that the Two Presidencies, acting in perfect consonance may accommodate their operations to each others necessities, the same advices were likewise sent to Bombay.

18. You will observe on our Proceedings a letter from Janoojee the Chief of the Cuttack Mahrattas, with whom we proposed treating for the cession of that Country, in order to open an immediate communication and connect Bengal with your Possessions on the Coromandel Coast His Vaqueel is soon expected in Calcutta to negotiate this business and nothing on our parts shall be wanting to carry into execution a measure which we think will conduce to the mutual convenience and Security of the two Establishments if it can be effected without such concessions as will prove injurious to our reputation.

19. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the business of the collections of Bengal and Bahar is drawing towards a conclusion, and that we shall very nearly complete the Revenue stated in the general Estimate The particulars are not yet received but we have the strongest assurances from Messrs Sykes and Rumbold and also from Mahomed Reza Cawn and Setabroy that the balances will be very inconsiderable at the next Punah.

20. You are already advised that the Committee have recommended to the President his making an annual Tour of the Provinces at the Time for adjusting the collections of the ensuing year. Mr Verelst will accordingly begin his progress before the close of this month and as soon as the business of the Presidency will admit of his absence; leaving the Government in charge with Mr Cartier.

21. The Select Committee met the ninth, when at the instance of S. Dowlah we countermanded the march of the 2nd Brigade and the detachment ordered to take Post at Serajpore. As the Nabob was lately [urgent] and solicitous for our assistance it is evident from his present request that he gives entire credit to the intelligence of Abdallas Return and is eased of all apprehensions for this season. The proceeding we have not been able to get up without detaining the dispatch which we have done so long in order to inform you of Abdallahs resolutions.

We have the honor to be

Hon'ble Sirs

Your most faithful humble

Servants

Fort William  
the 10h. April 1767.

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Claude Russel/  
Alexr. Campbell.

*Supplement*

22 In reply to your enquiry regarding the farms held in Burdwan by Messrs Johnstone, Hay, & Bolts we are to observe that in the account of Sales of those Lands it appears the farms rented by the above Gentlemen were put up in Lots considerably larger than any of the others It has also been confidently reported to Mr Verelst our President by the late Mr Ashburner, the Officers of the Government and others who were present at the Sales that few or no bidders appeared because it was known that Mr Johnstone intended those Farms for himself and it was therefore apprehended their offers might incur his displeasure We must leave you to judge from this instance how necessary it is become to exclude from the renting your Lands all Europeans whatever and more particularly Gentlemen who acquire weight and influence from the Share they have in the administration of your Affairs

Fort Wilham  
the 10th April 1767

H Verelst/John Cartier/Claude Russell/  
Alexr Campbell

## 9

## LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1767

*Shipping and its destination—quantity of saltpetre and its distribution*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Honorable,

1 We last had the Honor to address you under Date the 30th March P Mercury Snow Duplicate of which Letter goes enclosed This is transmitted to you by the Hector now returning to Fort St George with four thousand Maunds of Salt Petre, & thirty Tons of Red Wood there to take in the Remainder of her Cargoe, & receive her final Dispatches for Europe The great Importance it may be of to your Affairs to have a Ship returned fully loaded from Madrass in the Course of the Month of October has induced us to use all possible Expedition in sending her round to that Presidency

2 Taking into consideration the great advantages that will accrue to you from our sending an early Ship from hence not only

for the sake of giving you as soon as possible Advice of the present happy Situation of your Affairs here, but also to carry you a valuable Cargoe, which may possibly arrive in Time for the March Sales; & having sufficient Goods in the Warehouse for the Purpose We have determined to dispatch the Lord Holland with a full Lading from hence which we hope to accomplish about the Middle of the ensuing Month. We beg therefore you will excuse the Brevity of this Letter wherein we shall only advise you of the Arrival of your Shipping and their Destination; & permit us to refer you to the Lord Hollands Letter, which may probably reach you as soon as this for further Particulars of the present State of your Affairs here. We can however with great Pleasure assure you that everything is extremely quiet & that Prosperity, Peace & good order reign throughout every Branch of Business.

3. We have the Pleasure to acquaint you that the following Coast & China Ships of this Season arrived safely & in due Time at Madrass Vizt. Triton 28th May, Latham & Earl of Lincoln 5 June & Houghton the 9th of June. The Triton has since sailed from thence for China 30 June Earl of Lincoln 10th July, Latham 13th Do & the Houghton was under Dispatch when we rece'd the last advices from the Coast.

4. The Britannia which sailed from hence the 30th of Jany. last was spoke with off the Cape by the Lord Holland the 13th of April, & we have since learned by private advices from the Duke de Choissaul a French Ship, that the Britannia put into the Cape, which must have been shortly after her being spoke with by the Lord Holland altho' we have not been able to ascertain the exact Time yet we flatter ourselves she has met with a favorable Passage.

5. Of the Ships for Coast & Bay the Hector arrived the 31st of May at Madras & being immediately dispatched from thence reached us the 11th of June: on her arrived Messrs Becher & Alexander & agreeably to your Directions those Gentlemen have taken their Seats at the Board. The Lord Holland also arrived at Madrass the 6th of June & reached us the 6th of July, the Egmont who arrived safe at Madrass the 25th of July has not yet imported here: the Calcutta arrived with us the 11th Ulto. without touching at the Coast as did the Northington the 12th Instant.

6. By these Ships we have been favored with your several Commands under the following Dates.

General Letter, dated the 21st Novr. 1766

Duplicate & Triplicate of Do.

General Letter dated the 19th Decr. 1766

Duplicate & Triplicate of Do  
General Letter dated the 4th March 1767

Duplicate of Do also Triplicate Letter of the 17th May 1766, Triplicate of the 7th Janry 1767, Duplicate & Triplicate Letters of the 28th Jany with a Letter from Mr Secretary James dated the 24th Novr 1766

7 You may depend upon our paying the strictest attention to your several Orders contained in these Letters

8 We are sorry to acquaint you that the Calcutta in coming into the River struck upon a Sand near Barrabulla<sup>1</sup> & was in a few minutes fast aground by this Accident she was so much damaged that when she got off which was not without great Difficulty, she made so much Water that the Captain & Pilot were obliged to run her aground again below Kedgerree<sup>2</sup> Creek she was however shortly after got up to Town where after being heaved down she underwent an Examination by which we find that it is absolutely necessary she should be sent round to Bombay to be fully repaired from whence she is to proceed to Europe with a Cargoe much less valuable than that she would receive here & which in her present Condition could not with Propriety & consistently with your Interest be put on Board her after the accident she has met with

9 The Northington also struck upon a Land near Saugre in her Entrance into the River, but was soon got off again & arrived safe at Kedgerree without any apparent Damage

10 As the Gentlemen at Madrass have advised us that they will be able to furnish sufficient Tonnage for three Ships or at least two & an half & as we judge we shall have returning Cargoes for six Ships we agreed to dispatch from Coast & Bay with full Ladings to Europe the following Ships Vizt

Hector  
Lord Holland  
one in the Room  
of the Calcutta  
Norfolk

Egmont  
Northington  
Earl of Elgin  
Admiral Pocock &

having Occasion for another ship to Compleat the Number which we could provide with Tonnage, we wrote to the Gentlemen at Bombay requesting they would spare us one of the four Ships consigned to their Presidency which by Lrs from Fort St George we learn they consented to, but lest (*sic*) their ships should arrive too late at Madrass to proceed to Bombay & return from thence to us time enough to take in a returning Cargoe from hence, the Gentlemen at Madrass determined upon sending us one round

immediately on her Arrival with them. This Accident however which has happened to the Calcutta makes it necessary that we should have two of the Bombay Ships for our Use, we have therefore requested the Gentlemen at Madrass to send us round another as soon as possible & also that they would not take out of these two Ships their Bombay Consignment, but let them bring them round to Bengal when we will tranship them on Board the Calcutta whose Reparations here will be sufficient to carry them to their original Destination with safety in the fair Season. We have also acquainted the Gentlemen at Bombay with all these Circumstances & we are in Hopes the Calcutta will reach them in full Time enough to undergo a thorough Repair & then proceed to Europe with the Cargoe provided for the Ship which we shall be obliged to detain. We flatter ourselves that these Measures will meet with your Approbation.

11. The Select Committee having acquainted us that the Gentlemen at Fort St George had applied to them for a Reinforcement from hence & that they in Consequence intended to send them round three Battalions of Sepoys for which they requested our Assistance to procure Conveyance for them, we have directed the Hector to carry 600 to Vizagapatam which we imagine will not cause any material Delay in her Voyage & the Remr. we shall embark on the Calcutta, Earl of Elgin & Northington who have rec'd Orders to hold themselves in Readiness accordingly & such other Conveyances as may offer.

12. In order to give you as clear an idea as possible of the Quantity of Salt petre which you will receive this Year from the different Presidencies we beg Leave to acquaint you with the Adjustments which have been made regarding that article.

13. Upon calculating the several Supplys we have Reason to expect from Purnea & the Districts about Patna with the Ballance remaining in the Warehouse we find that we shall have in all one hundred thirty four thousand one hundred & ten Maunds.

14. We have therefore agreed to furnish the Gentlemen at Bombay with twenty three thousand Maunds twenty thousand to be sent to Europe on their homeward bound shipping & the Remr. for their own use, to Madrass seventeen thousand Maunds, twelve thousand for Europe also & the Remr. for the Use of their Presidency, & we shall send home from hence twenty eight thousand Maunds & reserve five thousand for our Use, by which means there will arrive with you sixty thousand Maunds of Petre from all your Settlements, we have concerted with the Gentlemen of the other Presidencies

that no more than the Quantity here specified shall be sent to Europe this Season

From the remaining quantity of Salt Petre calculated to be recd this year we shall supply the French & Dutch as follows seventeen thousand Maunds to the former & twenty three thousand Maunds to the latter

The Ballance remaining this Day in your Treasury amounts to Current Rupees 4 53 502 11 9 & in your Cash Chest to Current Rupees 8 983-0 2

Fort William  
the 26th August 1767

We are  
Honorable  
Your faithful &  
most obedient Servts

*Postscript* —1 We have granted Certificates to Capn John Williams of the Hector pursuant to the Indulgencies allow'd the Captains & Officers of the Europe Ships one sett for Current Rupees fortyfour thousand fourhundred fortyfour seven annaes one Pice bearing date the 26th of August

2 Since writing the above we have the Pleasure to acquaint you that the Norfolk arrived safe in the River yesterday & that she brings advice of the Egmonts being on the other Side of the Braces

Fort William  
Sepr 1st 1767

We are  
Honorable  
Your faithful and obedt  
Servts

# 10

## LETTER DATED 14 SEPTEMBER 1767

*A reinforcement of Sepoys sent to the Madras Coast—prospect of business in firs investigated—the Cargo of a French and Dutch ship compared to that of a British ship—Calcutta lands to be under Collector for another year—an amendment to the plan for the distribution of Lord Clive's fund for the disabled—Colonel Smith offered two lakhs as a present by the King—the matter referred to the Court of Directors—balance of debt—payment of navy donation—causers of dispute with foreign companies*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We had the Honor to address you last under Date the 26th Ultimo by the Hector Capn. John Williams which Ship we dispatched to Fort St George with Salt Petre & Red Wood in Order she might from thence proceed to Europe with a compleat Cargoe.

2. By that Ship we acquainted you with our Reasons for the intended Dispatch of the Lord Holland as early as possible with a full Lading from this Presidency she now accordingly proceeds to you, & we shall take this Opportunity of giving  
 Consn. 27 July you as particular a Detail of the present Situation of your Affairs here, & of the Occurrences which have happened, since our Advices of the last Season, as her speedy Dispatch will possibly admit of, & for further particulars we must beg Leave to refer you to our Letter by the annual ship under the established Heads.

3. We advised you fully in our last Letter of the Arrival & Destination of the several Ships of this season a Duplicate whereof now waits on you in this Packet. There remains only for us to inform you of the safe arrival of the Egmont here on the 3rd Instant.

4. By the Bonetta Sloop we rec'd from the President and Council of Fort St George, the Devonshire's Packet for this Presidency, containing Triplicate of your  
 Consn. 14 April Commands under Date the 26th March 1766 which was transmitted to them from Anjengo on the Arrival of that Ship there & at the same Time the two Folio register Books you were pleased to send us for the Use of our Church.

5. Having received private Advices from Fort St George that a Portugueze Ship immediately from Europe had imported there & was destined to Bengal we in Pursuance of your Orders caused Publication to be made forbidding any Inhabitants whether Europeans or Natives within your Jurisdiction to trade directly or indirectly with any Person belonging to this Ship, or to be any Ways assisting in the Delivery or Disposal of her Cargoe under Pain of forfeiting your Protection & Seizure of all such Goods as were proved to be rec'd from on Board her—She is since arrived & proceeded directly to Chandernagore without stopping at Calcutta & from the best Intelligence we have been able to procure her Cargoe is inconsiderable & consists chiefly of Wines of various Sorts.

6. In Consequence of the New Paragraph in the Instructions



to the Commanders of your outward bound Ships forbidding them to touch at Joanna we called upon Captains Fasham Nairne of the Lord Holland & George Thomson of the Calcutta who we were advised had put into that Port to assign their Reasons for such Deviation from your Orders, the former alledged that being in Want of Water and Provisions he judged it absolutely necessary to call there, & the latter on Account of the Recovery of the Soldiers who were most of them affected with Scorbutick Disorders These Reasons which were corroborated by the Assertions of several of their Passengers & it appearing to us that they could not with safety or Prudence touch at the Cape of Good Hope from the Lateness of the Season met with our Approbation, and here we cannot in Justice to those Gentlemen & the other Commanders who arrived here this Season omit informing you that the Recruits were properly taken Care of on Board their Ships & have in general landed in a good State of Health

7 The Nottingham had sailed from hence before your Orders reached us regarding Capn Howe which prevented our putting them into Execution We can with Confidence assure you that to the Day of his Departure we had not the least Cause for suspicion of any illicit Goods having been received by Him or any other Person on Board His Ship

8 The strictest attention shall be paid to your Orders concerning Bills which may be drawn by you in Favor of the Owners of Europe Ships & we shall be careful in sending Advice of our Payment of them to such of your Presidencies as the Ships may proceed to before they leave India

9 In our Letter by the Nottingham we fully advised you of the Result of our Enquiries concerning the Seizure of the King of Pegue's Ship the Tetuinbien, our Proceedings thereupon which we hope you will find sufficiently explicit were sent you by the same Conveyance & Duplicate by the Mercury, we have therefore only to add on this subject that in the Course of the Examination there did not appear to us any just cause of Complaint against Captain Gibson

10 As we judged that the marine Expences at Chittagong would admit of a Reduction, we have resolved that only two Long Boats and three Pilots shall in Future be maintained there for that Service and the Gentlemen of that Factory having represented to us the bad Condition of their Vessels, we directed them either to send them hither or put them upto Sale on the Spot, as they might judge most conducive to your interest They had our Directions at the

same Time to dismiss all such Persons as were employed in their marine & were not immediately requisite for the Navigation of the two Long Boats.

11. Mr Deane in Consequence of your having been pleased to  
 Consn. 9 July appoint him to the Station of Deputy Master  
 Attendant has been recalled to the Presidency.

12. We were of Opinion that the two Long Boats required  
 for the Marine Service at Chittagong could be built much cheaper  
 & of better Materials at Bandemalanca than at this Presidency and  
 Consn. 17 Augst. therefore directed the Master Attendant to  
 lay before us a proper Model for the Construc-  
 tion of them, which we have transmitted to Mr John Whitehill  
 your President there & requested of him to compleat and send  
 them round to us with all possible Expedition.

13. In our Letter of the 26th Ultimo by the Hector we advised  
 you of the Intention of the Select Committee to send a Reinforce-  
 ment of three Battalions of Sepoys to the Coast & that we had  
 ordered the Calcutta, Earl of Elgin & Northington to be held in  
 Readiness for this Service. The former having found her Main-  
 Mast sprung after heaving down must be detained here untill the  
 proper Season for sending her to Bombay & the two latter are now  
 under Dispatch with Sepoys on Board each Ship. For Want of  
 Tonnage we have been under the Necessity of taking up the  
 Savage a Country Ship commanded by Captain John Attenborough  
 to whom we have agreed to pay at the Rate of sixteen Arcot Rupees  
 Consn. 26 Augst. for each Sepoy embarked on Board his Ship in  
 Consideration of his furnishing them with all  
 kinds of provisions necessary for their voyage and on account  
 of the approaching bad season we have further engaged should  
 this Ship be detained at Vizagapatam beyond the Space of  
 four days after her arrival to pay him a Demurrage of five  
 hundred Arcot Rs. P Diem untill she is dispatched from that  
 Port. But in Order to prevent such an additional Expen-  
 ce being incurred we have advised the Chief and Council of  
 that Factory particularly of our Agreement & urged them very  
 strongly to debark the Troops within the Time limited therein &  
 to return to us as expeditiously as possible your two ships the Earl  
 of Elgin & Northington. If any Part of this Reinforcement should  
 remain after the Departure of the forementioned Ships we shall  
 embark them on Board of Country Vessels as occasions may offer.

14. We have already acquainted you with the accidents  
 which had happened to the Calcutta & Northington Indiamen in  
 Consequence of which & of Complaints made to us from their

Commanders of the misconduct of the Pilots entrusted with the Charge of those Ships, we directed a Court of Enquiry to be held for their Examination, & it having appeared that they were very negligent in & ignorant of their Duty we have ordered them to be reduced to the Rank of Masters & the Masters of the two Pilot Sloops which attended them being equally culpable to that of Mates We

took this opportunity to issue such new  
 Consn 26 Augst Regulations for the Conduct of all Persons employed in your marine Service as will we hope produce the desired End by effectually putting a stop to any future misbehaviour For a particular acct of our Transactions in this affair we beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings as they very fully appear on the Face of the Consultations

15 By the Jenny Snow Capt Burnet we have complied with the Indents from the President & Council at Fort Marlbro' excepting five Hundred Bags of Rice which  
 Consn 31 Augst she could not take on Board & also with your orders regarding the Madeira & Vidonia Wines

16 By the Lord Holland we received Letters from Messrs Comyns Brothers & Powers & Collogan & Sons at Teneriffe accompanying seventy Pipes of Vidonia Wine consigned to us on your account fifty of which  
 Consn June 26 were from the former & twenty from the latter

17 You may be assured that our utmost Endeavours shall be exerted in disposing of this Wine to the best advantage but from what we have already fully wrote to you by the Albany & Nottingham on this subject we are persuaded you must be doubtful as to the Sale thereof

18 We also received by the Calcutta a Letter from Messrs Hiccox Chambers & Denyer at Madeira covering invoice & Bills of Lading of seventy five Pipes of Madeira Wine  
 Consn 11 July laden by them on Board her for this Presidency,  
 31 Augst the Norfolk also brings us a Letter from those Gentlemen advising of their having sent in her 75 Pipes of Madeira also for our use

19 We take the Liberty to repeat the earnest Request we made to you in the 23rd Paragraph of our Letter by the Cruttenden under Date the 20th Novr last for an ample supply of Medicines an article for which we have been this season in the greatest Distress imaginable having received none before the Northington's Arrival To this we must in some Measure impute the great Mortality we have lately had here as well as in the army As your early dispatched ships generally



24 Mr Richard Barwell having tendered to us some Irs  
 he procured from the Morung Country which upon Examination  
 being reported fit for Service we purchased  
 Consn 14 Augst them at the Rate of 30 ARs each—Samples  
 of these are now forwarded to you on this Ship.

25 In Reply to the 24th Paragraph of your Letter under Date  
 the 4th March 1767 we must in Justice to ourselves assure you & we  
 have our Information from undubitable Authority that the publick  
 Invoice of any one ship dispatched to Europe  
 Consn 14 Augst by the French or Dutch from Bengal in the year  
 1765 did not amount to above 2/3 of the Value of one of yours  
 We cannot indeed pretend to say what might have been the Amount  
 of private Trade on Board as Individuals among them are indulged  
 with the Liberty of sending Goods upon Freight.

26 We embraced the first Opportunity after the Receipt of  
 your orders to consult with the President and Council at Fort  
 St George about the proper Means of supplying Fort Marlbro' with  
 Treasure who in Reply informed us that they had procured to the  
 Amount of thirty thousand Dollars wch they proposed to send  
 thither and had resolved to purchase what  
 Consn [16] Augst further Quantity they might be able to procure  
 as they were at a Loss for a Conveyance of this Treasure  
 We at their Request directed Capt Burnet of the Jenny  
 Snow which had our Consignments for Fort Marlbro' on  
 Board to proceed to Madrass for that Purpose We have also by  
 her empowered the Gentlemen at that Presidency to draw upon  
 us for whatever Sums of Money they have Occasion for

27 It is with great Concern we are to acquaint you that in  
 the Month of March last a dreadful Fire broke out in the Canton  
 ments of the 2nd Brigade at Bankypore which  
 Consn 14 April in a very short space of Time consumed the  
 Buildings & all the Baggage of the Officers The artillery Park  
 too was in imminent Danger, & with Difficulty preserved Of the  
 Buildings nothing escaped but an old Range of uninhabited  
 Barracks

28 Soon after we received Advice from the Gentlemen at  
 Cossimbuzar that all the Nicaud Connahs or Places for winding the  
 Silk at Commercolly\* had been destroyed by a violent storm & we  
 were again alarmed by a Circumstance of a more  
 Consn 27 April serious Nature by a Letter from the Chief &  
 18 May Council at Patna advising us that a Fire had  
 broke out there in the Month of May which raged for two days  
 having nearly reduced the whole city to ashes and proved fatal to

the Lives of some thousands—That the Factory House & many Bales of Cloth had been destroyed. By an Estimate rec'd of your Loss in Goods only we observe it amounts to sixty two thousands five Hundred & 12 Rupees 11 an. & 6 Pice. The Gentlemen of that Factory were under the Necessity of removing to your Gardens at Bankypore where they have been directed to accomodate themselves in the best manner possible until proper Habitations can be procured for them.

29. The Cantonments which were erected for the Troops then at Patna were not within the City but at Bankypore a Place about three Miles distant from it, & those which are now building at Donapore at least 6 Miles. We hope therefore

Consn. 13 July when this Information reaches you the Apprehensions you express in your Letter of the 21st Novr. 1766 will no longer exist. We shall ever avoid as much as lies in our Power to quarter your Troops within a City being well aware of the bad Consequences which such a Measure is too frequently attended with.

30. After mature Deliberation on the best Method of disposing of the Calcutta Lands, we have come to the Resolution of keeping them in our own Hands under the management of the Collector General for another Year in Hopes that we may be able During that Time to ascertain the real Value of them; as we wish that you should be particularly acquainted with our Proceedings on this Subject we shall forward them to you in a seperate Consultation by the next Conveyance.

31. Upon a Representation from the Chief & Council at Chittagong of the dangerous Situation of the Factory House at Luckypore from the Encroachments of the River in so much as to endanger your Effects remaining in it we directed Mr Bartholomew

Consn. 3 July Plaisted to proceed thither & report it's situation to us. That in Case it should appear to be in imminent Danger to fix on a proper Spot for building New Godowns for the Reception of your Goods & a small Habitation for the President as far from the River as would preserve them from the like Inconvenience in future. When he reports to us his Proceedings. We shall pursue such Measures as may be judged most conducive to the security of your Effects wherein the strictest Oeconomy shall be observed.

32. In our Letter of the 24th of March 1766 P Ponsborne we informed you of our Resolution to have Piles driven near the New Fort in Order to prevent the bad Effects Whch. were apprehended from the Encroachment of the River. The Committee of Works

having taken this Matter in Consideration, and judging it most eligible to have this Business carried on, by Contract they laid before us Proposals to be published for the same, which meeting with our entire Approbation we caused a publick Advertisement to be made thereof and fixed a Day for receiving such Offers as might be made When this Point is adjusted you may depend on our advising you fully of it

33 We have taken every Opportunity to reduce the Pay of Artificers and Coolies in so much that we have too great Reason to apprehend the Works of the New Fort have thereby been retarded For it has frequently happened that we have been in Want of them for that Service when Individuals have been Consn 14 Augst amply supplied for as they pay an higher Price than you do it must be supposed these People will prefer their Service to yours We have used our utmost Endeavours to prevent the Inhabitants from paying so high a Price but all our Efforts have hitherto been useless

34 On the receipt of your Orders relating to Mr Call we applied to the Gentlemen of Fort St George for his Assistance jointly with Capt Martin to inspect into the State of your Works in the New Fort, & we have Hopes he will proceed hither in the Month of October if he can be spared from that Consn 13 June Presidency, we may in such a case hope to fix on a Plan that will effectually conduce to a speedy Conclusion of this important Work & also remedy those Errors which have been committed in the Construction thereof We shall then also it is hoped be enabled to furnish you with an exact State of your Fortifications & of the Expence attending the Completion of them

35 The tedious and expensive Method with which the Buildings in the New Fort have been carried on has been of the greatest Concern to us & Endeavours to remedy the same have often proved fruitless To carry on the Works by Contract promised the fairest for Cheapness and Expedition but Contractors were not to be engaged untill last April when Proposals were made to the Committee of Works by two substantial Persons Natives of Calcutta for completing the Counterscarp on the following Terms, viz, "For every two Feet four Inches in Length & Breadth & fourteen in height of solid Brick Work they agree to make in the best manner on the West Side of the Fort for five Arcot Rs on the South & North Sides for Arcot Rs five & eight Annas, & on the East Side for six Arcot Rs the Company furnishing all materials & on these Terms they

agree to dig the Foundation and supply the Works with Coolies at their Expence & also to pay the Brick layers" They also engaged for the inter[.....] Buildings, such as might require Plaistering Pannelling & other common Ornaments at the Rate of six Arcot Rupees for the Measurement above mentioned—On the clearest Estimation of the Cost of Buildings before constructed, & such as would be built on the above Terms it appeared that very considerable Sums might be saved to you by the Work being done by Contract. We therefore very readily embraced the Offer & have the Pleasure now to inform you that so far as our Store of Chunam & the daily Supplies of that Article coming in will admit of—The Buildings are carried on under the Direction of the Engineer & Inspection of his assistants, & European Overseers with Expedition.

36. The Civil Architect who was ordered to examine into the State of the Government House having reported to us that it was in great Decay & would require a thorough Repair we have directed an Estimate of the Expence thereof to be laid before us in Order that such Repairs as are absolutely necessary may be made in the cheapest Manner possible.

Consn. 26 Augst.

37. The fifteen Writers you were pleased to appoint to this Settlement are all arrived except Mr John Purling & Mr John Briscoe the latter of whom is on a Country Voyage. He shall on his Return be acquainted with his Appointment & be stationed accordingly.

38. The Gentlemen on being called before the Board all expressed their Satisfaction of the Behaviour of the Several Captains towards them during the Passage.

39. We return to you by this Conveyance the several Covenants executed by your civil and military Servants since our last address Lists of which go Numbers in the Packet also Duplicates of those forwarded to you last Season.

40. We are extremely sorry to acquaint you that the last Hot Season has proved fatal to no less than thirteen of your covenanted Servants vizt. the Revd. Mr Thos. Blomer Chaplain Mr John Wood Junior Mercht., Mr Samuel Bartholomew Case Factor Messrs Thos. Ridley, William Weston, James Longford Whyte, John Loyd Booth, Francis Stoddard, William Nixon, Samuel Mitchell, William Mitchell, John Nicholson and William Howitt Writers.

41. The Malignancy of the Season did not confine itself to the Presidency but extended its baneful Influence over all the Country,



most of the Subordinates felt its dreadful Effects nor did any of the Brigades escape The general Return of the Troops will inform you how many Gallant Men both Officers and Soldiers fell untimely Sacrifices to its Fury

42 Before your Favor of the 4th March last reached us we had in Consideration of Mr Blomers Death applyed to the Gentlemen of Fort St George to permit the Revid Mr Thomas to come down to Bengal, but they assured us he could not be spared as his Presence was absolutely necessary with the Army, We hope however that our second application backed by the Paragraph in your general Letter relative to that Gentleman will have the desired Effect as we greatly need his Assistance

Consn [18?] June  
14 Augst

43 Mr Thomas Cooper whom you appointed a Writer on the Fort St George Establishment is at present on a Voyage to China We shall send him round to his station as soon as he returns

Consn 11 June

44 The President took his Leave of the Board on the 29 April to attend at the Poonah on behalf of the Company & returned the Beginning of July when he resumed his Seat at the Board

Consn 29 April  
3 July

45 Upon our Communicating the Plan for the Distribution of the Fund established by Lord Clive towards the Relief of such Officers & Soldiers as are worn out or disabled in the Service of the Company to the other Presidencies the Gentlemen at Fort St George pointed out an Amendment which appeared so just and equitable that we did not hesitate to adopt it nor do we doubt of its meeting with your unanimous Approbation vizt That the Widows of such Officers and Soldiers as die or are killed in the Service, who appear to be real Objects of Compassion shall be entitled to a share of the Bounty equally with the Widows of those who have enjoyed Pensions We have accordingly acquainted the other Presidencies with the Amendment that they may allow such Objects to be inserted in the List until your Pleasure be known

46 Since our last address Messrs Charles Goring & Isaac Sage have requested Leave to resign the Service which we accordingly granted them the former took his Passage on the Hector & the latter now proceeds on the Lord Holland

Consn 26 Augst  
14 Sept

47 Major Giles Stibbert has also resigned the Service & purposes to proceed to Europe this season as does Lieutenant Robert Shand for the Recovery of his Health

Consn 11 May  
10 Augst

48. The refractory & insulting Behaviour of Messrs Nicol and Davie since the Dispatch of the Nottingham when we informed you of their former Conduct obliged us to secure them in the Fort at Monghyr until the Lord Holland was ready to depart, when we ordered them down to Calcutta and sent them on Board Capt. Nairne upon the same Conditions as the Gentlemen sent Home last Season.

Consn. 14 Sepr.

49. Many Persons having disobeyed our Orders for their Proceeding to Europe last Season & some of them having absconded we have directed a strict Search to be made for them that they may no longer remain in Bengal in Defiance of our authority.

50. Mr William Atkinson who disregarded our Directions for his departing last Season has received a peremptory Order which we are determined shall be obeyed.

Consn. 24 Augst.

51. In Consequence of the Resolution taken by the Select Committee regarding Mr. Wm. Bolts we have sent him also positive Directions to leave the Country and repair to Europe this Season.

Consn. 24 Augst.

52. Colonel Smith last July informed us that the King had repeated his offer of a Present to him of two Laacks of Rupees & desired our Permission for his Acceptance of it, he likewise forwarded to us two Letters from the King one addressed to the Board, the other to the President importing his Majesty's desire of our approbation to his presenting the Colonel with this Sum We in Reply acquainted him that it was not in our Power to comply with his Request but that we should refer it to the Decision of the Court of Directors, that we were unanimously of Opinion any Encouragement to the Tender of Presents were manifestly contrary to the Will of our Employers, & was setting forth a Precedent not only for all future Commanders but possibly for every officer who might be hereafter sent on a separate Command & that it was our fixed Resolution to discountenance every instance of the Kind unless upon Occasions of a very particular Nature. We likewise desired that he would enquire after the Receipts for two Laaks of Rupees mentioned in the King's Letter to the President & return them immediately to his Majesty. The President at the same Time was desired to write to his Majesty to the following Purport "That we earnestly wished our Attachment to him might appear to the World more concerted by Honor than any interested Tie & that it was most glorious for him & most reputable for ourselves to have a Friendship founded on such a Basis, that we could not give our Consent to the Colonel's

Consn. 28 July

Acceptance of his Present without the Approbation of the Court of Directors & that we must request he would not in Future confer such Donations on any of the English Chiefs but upon very particular Occasions" The Colonel in answer to our Letter to him acquainted us tht his Majesty's Orders on our Treasury at Muxadavad was the only Paper received by him or by any other Person on his Account He represented to us that by our directing him to return the Order we deprived him of profiting by his Majesty's Bounty should you permit his Acceptance of it, that he however had tendered it to the King in Presence of Col Sir Robt Barker Major Polier and other Officers but his Majesty positively refused to receive it desiring it might remain a Deposit in his Hands till the

Consn 14 Sepr  
Do

Pleasure of the Court of Directors was know

But as he judged his keeping it after our express Orders to Contrary was impossible he had sent it to us to dispose of it as to us should seem just and equitable We advised him of our Receipt of the Order & of our Determination to keep it in our Hands till we received your instructions, at the same Time assuring him that his last Letter had not in the least altered our Sentiments on the Occasion

53 Your Letter of the 4th of March from the 37th to 44 Paragraphs contains Directions for your Junior Servants in Order

Consn 14 Augst

to eradicate the Seeds of luxury and Extra

vagance You may be assured of our utmost Endeavours to facilitate the Execution of your Plan and it gives us real Pleasure that we can inform you of the Prudence and good Order which has for some Time past been established thro' every Class of your Servants

54 We communicated your Orders to all your Servants who behaved in so disrespectful a manner to the Committee and the Gentlemen called from Madrass to take their Seats at our Board and appointed a Day for their attending on us to make the Concessions you required On their attending the Council

Consn 14 Augst  
24th Do

they expressed their sorrow for their former Conduct which had incurred the Displeasure of

their Superiors, they hoped their Behaviour had for some Time past been unexceptionable & they assured us it should be their future study to deserve your and our good Opinion

55 At a Time when we imagined your Debt at Interest had been happily reduced to little more than eight Laacks of Rupees including some particular Indulgencies granted to Orphans and Widows of keeping their Money in your Cash untill your Pleasure cou'd be known, we directed the Sub accomptant to ballance the Books of the Debt at Interest and to lay before us a Statement

specifying the Particulars of each Note with the Names of the Proprietors when to our great Surprize the Balance of your Debt

amount instead of eight Laacks to no Less  
 Consn. 10 Augst. a sum than thirty one Laack, eighty four thousand eight Hundred & sixty nine Rupees nine annas and nine Pice, making a Difference betwixt the two sums of twenty three Laacks sixty eight Thousand five Hundred & ninety one Rupees eight annas and nine Pice. To investigate the Cause of so great an Inattention we appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs Becher Alexander & Floyer to inspect into the Books from them we are informed that on the Dispatch of every Ship a Statement is delivered from the Treasury Office to the Sub Accomptant of all Monies received & paid on Account of the Debt at Interest among which Payments have been erroneously inserted The Interest paid upon all Bonds instead of it's being carried under a separate Head of Acct. Interest & consequently the Interest and Principal of the Bonds paid off, has ever been deducted from the principal Sum of the Debt at Interest. That

Consn. 14 Sept. this Method has been pursued ever since the Capture of Calcutta altho the General Books have been right for upon extracting from the General Books the whole amount of Interest paid Price (*sic*) that Time it answers to the Difference before mentioned of twenty three Laacks sixty eight Thousand five Hundred and ninety one eight annas & nine Pice within the sum of ten Thousand four Hundred and thirty nine Rupees, fourteen which they can no otherwise account for than by supposing that an erroneous Statement has been made out at some Dispatch before the year 1762 which they cannot point out as there are no Copies to refer to before that Time. For your more particular Information the Report of these Gentlemen comes a Number in the Packet; as this Piece of Neglect & Error has only been transmitted to you in our General Letters where we mentioned the Balance of the Debt at Interest and as the Books sent you home have been right, we flatter ourselves that it has not been materially prejudicial to your affairs.

56. Such Bills as you have been pleased to draw upon us have been duly honored.

57. Mr Archibald Keir Executor to the Estate of Mrs. Mary De Lor Deceased pursuant to the Decree given by the King and Council in her Favor in a suit wherein the Hon'ble Company were

Consn. 24 Augst. Defendants presented to us a Bill for the amount of the Decree and all the Costs of Suit being Current Rupees twenty one thousand two hundred & seventy five in answer to which we acquainted him that you had

informed us in your general Letter off the 4th March that you had paid the sum of two hundred Pounds for Costs which attended the Suit in Europe & therefore desired he would deduct the same from his Bill & the Balance should be paid him to which he replied that he apprehended there must be some Mistake as no Person in England was properly authorized to receive that money on Account of Mrs. Mary De Lor however that he had formed the Bill as we directed deducting the two hundred Pounds in Question from it & only requested that he might have a Bill on you payable to

Consn. 31 Augst.  
Do

his Order for that Sum provided the same had not been before discharged, which we informed him cou'd not with Propriety be done, but that we shou'd mention the Particulars to you referring them to your final Decision, and he being satisfied with this the Bill with Deduction has been paid amounting to Curr. Rupees nineteen Thousand four hundred & forty four twelve annas and nine Pice.

58. The Agents for the Squadron applied to us for Payment of the navy Donation granted by Myr Jaffier to the Officers & Seamen of the Squadron under the Command of Mr Tinker. We acquainted them in Reply that having received your Directions to pay that Demand out of the Old Ballances of the Revenues due to the Nabob, we had ordered a Statement of the same to be made out that when it was compleated we should be able to form a Judgement when we could comply with this request of which we should not fail to advise them.

59. At a Period when the Necessity of your Affairs require we should use our utmost Endeavors to extend your Investment, when the Facility of procuring Money enables the other European Companies to form more early and considerable Contracts than usual, & when a manifest Scarcity of Manufacturers prevail in every District of the Country it cannot be expected the several trading Companies should compleat their respective investments without affording mutual Occasions of Discontent and Complaint; sensible that our encreased influence and Acquisitions wou'd naturally excite Jealousy we studied by every Mark of Complaisance & Moderation to conciliate the foreign Settlements to a System of Government from which they derive the most evident Advantages, free from Oppression, eased from all Apprehension of arbitrary Exactions & secure in the quiet & full Possession of their Phirmaund Priviledges: it is with much Concern we observe they determined to remain dissatisfied because they are not themselves the Superiors.

60. Before Lord Clive's Departure the French and Dutch began their Complaints they alledged their Agents were interrupted their

People confined and oppressed & that every possible Obstruction was thrown in the Way of their Investment. Our Agents retorted, they denied every Charge brought against them; and appealed for their Justification to a publick Enquiry, they affirmed that notwithstanding their Contracts were made and the English Company had advanced considerable Sums at all the Aurungs before the foreign Settlements had remitted a Rupee—yet that by means of Seduction, Artifice & Premiums they found themselves every where thwarted & disappointed.

61. To accommodate these Disputes & settle the Business of the Investment upon a solid & equitable Footing several Conferences were held, but nothing was finally determined except that Commissaries should be appointed by the respective Companies to investigate at the Aurungs the Sources of Contention. In this Circuit it was proposed to examine upon the Spot the Truth of the Allegations of either Agents, to point out the aggressors & by an exemplary Punishment of the guilty to remove the Causes of Difference & lay the best Foundation we cou'd devise of future Harmony & Concord. When the Commissaries met those of the French & Dutch demanded a Partition of the Weavers and claimed a Promise to that Effect from the President & Council of Calcutta, but no such Article appearing in their Instructions our Commissaries refused their Assent and both appealed to their Constituents. Several Letters passed on this Occasion between the Councils: they warmly insisted on a division of the Weavers, and taxed us bitterly with a breach of our Engagements. We positively rejected the Proposal, assigned our Reasons and referred to the President then at Muxadavad for an Explanation of the Promise they alledged, with which the Board was utterly unacquainted, In fact the subject had never been discussed by the Council—a written memorial had been delivered by Mr Vernet the Dutch Directore to Mr Verelst in which was contained the Proposal for numbering the Weavers and dividing them in certain Proportions among the three Companies; the same had been intimated in the Conference with Lord Clive, and his Lordship & Mr Verelst both gave Assurances that nothing in their Power should be left undone to bring all Disputes to an amicable Issue, As to the Proposal itself it was never seriously considered from a Persuasion that the intended Enquiry by Commissaries would point out the most efficacious Method of redressing Grievances.

62. The French and Dutch persevering in their Demands with so much Obstinacy we were under the Necessity of recalling Messrs Bathoe & Delaporte so that the meeting of  
 Consn. 14 April the Commissaries from which so much was expected has left our Disputes just where they commenced; we apprehend it will be unnecessary to enter into a minute

Detail of the Reasons which induced the Board to reject Mr Vernet's Proposal so evidently inconsistent with the moderate and conciliating System of Conduct you recommend: a participation of the Weavers would be to throw off the Mask & acknowledge ourselves the Sovereigns of the Country. It would be injurious to the Nabob's Prerogative, oppressive to the Natives, ruinous to all black Merchants & subversive of every Principle of Justice & Policy It would counteract in the most expressive manner the Professions we make, the appearances we necessarily assume & the Endeavors we use of seeming to act from the Nabobs authority only, It wou'd prove the most glaring Contradiction to the Spirit & Intention of your orders for preserving to the Natives the free Priviledge in the Inland Trade, In a Word the Disproportion of Hands necessary to form their Investment and yours would appear so great that we could not accept the Proposals of Participation without confessing all that Policy requires shou'd be concealed.

Consn. 27 April 11  
May 20 Do 30 Do

63. For Particulars we beg Leave to refer you to the Lrs.

Consn. 8 June 18  
Do 25 Do

entered in the Face of our Consultations as marked in the Margin.

64. We beg Leave to offer you our Acknowledgements for the particular Mark of Favor which you have bestow'd on Mr Charles Floyer by appointing him to a Seat in Council in Consequence of the Recommendation of Lord Clive & the Select Committee and he himself particularly requests Leave to assure you that he will ever retain the most grateful Sense of the Indulgence you have granted him, & that it shall be his chief study to render himself worthy of it.

Consn. 11 July 20  
Do 27 Do 3d. Augst  
Do 25 Do

65. The Ballance remaining in your Treasury this Day is eight Laacks Ninety thousand one hundred seventy five Curr. Rs. The Reason of our Treasury's being so low proceeds from the Large Sums of Money which have been issued out of late for the Business of your Investment and the Payment of Interest Bonds. We can however confidently assure you that in a very short Time we shall have a full and ample Treasury—The Ballance of Cash also this Day is twenty seven thousand four hundred and forty four Rs. fourteen An. & eight Pice and the Register of Diamonds by this Ship amounts to 50,210.

Fort William  
14 Sepr. 1767

We are  
Honorable Sirs  
Your faithful &  
obedient Servants

*Postscript:*—1. We have granted Certificates to Capt. Fasham Nairne of the Lord Holland Pursuant to the Indulgencies allowed to the Captains & Officers of the Europe Ships Vizt. One Sett for Curr. Rupees forty four Thousand four hundred forty four seven Annas one Pice bearing Date the 20th Sepr. 1767.

2. We have just rec'd a Letter from Colonel Smith acquainting us that having observed the Cannon in general which have for some Time past been sent from Europe did not answer Expectation he had caused the Commandant and Captains of Artillery to Survey and report their Condition which Report he forwarded to us for our Observation. As we deem this a matter of Importance which should be laid before you as early as possible the above mentioned Report makes a Number in the Packet & to which we beg Leave to refer you.

Fort William  
the 14th Sepr. 1767

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your Faithful &  
obedt. humble  
Servants.

## II

### LETTER DATED 10 DECEMBER 1767

*Private trade on board the Hector—reinforcements sent to Fort St. George—permission sought for the construction of a commodious dock—Dutch and French investments not helped by any servant of the Company—French competition for investment at Dacca—scarcity of silver—the French conciliatory since the arrival of Mr. Chevalier—disputes with the Dutch—proposed regulations concerning junior servants—charges against Bolts.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs

1. By the Lord Holland we had the Honor to address you under Date the 14th September, The Norfolk now proceeding with a full Cargoe we shall reply under the Established Heads to your Several Letters of this Season the receipts of which are acknowledged in the accompanying Duplicate of our Dispatch by the Lord Holland.



2 After closing the above Advices we were informed by a Letter from Capt Tasham Nairn of the distressed & sickly Condition of his Ship's Company which prevented his weighing Anchor until the 12th October when most of the People being recovered he proceeded on his Voyage with a fair Wind & the Prospect of a speedy Passage Before his Departure he entered the usual Protest against the Governor & Council for being dispatched before Charter Party Time

Consn    Sept 28  
          5th Oct

### *First of Shipping*

3 On the 12th of November the Admiral Pocock arrived safe at her Moorings in the river & she brings Advice of the Bute's having also arrived safe at Reio Janeiro the 14th June from whence they sailed together & parted Company 4 Degrees to the Eastward of the Coast the 1st July We learn by advices from Bombay that the Worcester imported safely there the 12th of August Letters also from Ft St George acquaint us that a Country Ship lately arrived at that Presidency from Batavia brought Intelligence of the safe Arrival there of the Earl of Middlesex & that in the Month of April the Lord Camden & Fox were both at St Helena

Consn    12 Octr

4 You are advised in the accompanying Duplicate that we had taken up the Jenny Snow for the purpose of conveying your Consignments to Fort Marlbro'—The Vessel had been properly surveyed & examined notwithstanding which she sprung a Leak soon after leaving the Pilot & put back in distress This obliged us to unship the Cargo, get the Snow heaved down, & to suffer a considerable Loss of Time in the necessary repairs as soon as she was reported to be again in a proper Condition to receive the Consignments She was reloaded with all Dispatch & ordered at Mr Burnet the Commander's earnest request to proceed directly for Bencoolen the Season of the year being too far advanced for touching at Madras We called upon the Captain to make good the Damages sustained by this accident but on his representation that the Consignments had suffered from the unavoidable Circumstance of bad Weather against which he protested in due form we waved the Demand satisfying ourselves with obliging him to bear the Charges of unloading and reshipping the Goods The Change made in his Destination we flatter ourselves will produce no Inconvenience as the Gentlemen at Fort Marlbro' have dispatched the Royal Admiral to Madras where She may receive the Articles intended for the Jenny from whence She is to call here & take in our Consignments for this Year

Consn    1st Octr  
          Novr 5th

5. The extraordinary Behaviour of Capt. John Williams of the Hector upon an Occasion the most critical & important to the Company we beg Leave to Submit to your serious Consideration. When at the recommendation of the Select Committee we determined upon sending a Detachment of three Battalions of Sepoys to the Coast this Gentleman consented to accomodate six Hundred of the Troops. In Consequence the Number proposed was

dispatched to Ingerlee where the Chief Mate of  
 Consn. 20 Sepr. the Hector refused to receive the Troops on board until the Captain's Arrival He even made frivolous Excuses for denying them a supply of Provisions from those Stores which were sent on Board for the Use of these Sepoys. The Capt. justified the Misbehaviour of his Chief Mate by pursuing the same Conduct himself & obliging the Troops to remain several days cooped up in small Vessels destitute of Provisions, crowded almost to Suffocation & exposed to the utmost Danger from the extreme severity of the Weather. Mr French had been sent down to dispatch the Hector, he used every persuasive argument to prevail on Capt. Williams to relieve the Troops from the Distress & Danger they underwent but he was deaf to all remonstrances until his own Measures were answered & he had filled the ship with private Trade after which he condescended to receive one Captain two Serjeants and 428 Rank & File leaving Mr French to provide as he cou'd for the remainders.

6. We need not enlarge to your Hon'ble Court on the Expediency of punishing with the greatest rigour so criminal a Prostitution to private Views of the publick Interest at a Juncture when the Safety of your Possessions on the Carnatic was depending.

The Consequences of Capt. Williams's Treatment  
 Consn. 28 Sepr. of the Sepoys may also extend beyond the present Occasions and create such a Terror amongst the Troops of the Inconveniences they must undergo by Sea as shall render it impossible for us to embark them in Cases of the most urgent Necessity, but as the Circumstances of Affairs wou'd not admit of detaining him for an Enquiry into his Conduct we have transmitted all the necessary Vouchers to Madrass & hope they will reach that Presidency early enough to produce an (*sic*) to other Commanders of the Punishment they are to expect for so shameful a Breach of publick Duty. Shou'd this fail to answer our Expectations we flatter ourselves you will find Proofs sufficient on the Face of our Consultations to justify the severest Censure you may think proper to inflict.

7. Before we quit this Subject it is proper you Should be acquainted with a Further Instance of Capt. Williams's invariable

regard to his own, at the Expence of your Interest Our Boats with Consignments of picking Stuff for Madrass were sent down to Kedgeree where the chief Officer refused taking the Goods on board because he had received no Orders from the Captain The Boats followed the Ship to Ingerlee & on the Captain's Arrival tendered their Loadings but he rejected two of the Number one of which was lost & the other returned to Calcutta For particulars we beg Leave to refer you to the reports of the Buxey & Mr French, observing in Justice to the last of these Gentlemen that his prudent & spirited Behaviour gave great Satisfaction to this Board

8 By the Europa which arrived here the 12th of October we received from Madrass your Commands P Earl of Chatham both Ships arriving at that Presidency about the 8th of September The Gentlemen at Madras requesting we would return for their second Dispatch one of the Ships now in the River, the Egmont Capt Meares will sail in a few days for the Coast & the following ships will transport to you the remaining Cargoes of this Presidency & receive their Dispatches in order as follows

Norfolk  
Europa  
Earl of Elgin

Northington  
and  
Admiral Pococke

9 Altho we judged it too hazardous to load the Calcutta with a valuable returning Cargoe to Europe & accordingly ordered her to Bombay that she might have an Opportunity of being refitted there, yet was it proper you should derive all the Advantages from the Ship which her Situation wou'd admit of—The Master Attendant was therefore directed to Survey her & upon his Report that she might proceed without Risque to Bombay with a Part of the Europas Cargoe Capt Thomson received on board [ ] Tons together with the Grabsmen sent out for the marine Service, of whom one Jno Douglas Manne died on his Passage to this Place one George Grant run away & a third Wm Shaw was left sick at Madras

10 Before we permitted the Calcutta to receive her Dispatches we took the Master Attendants & others Opinions if we cou'd with Safety send her first to Massulipatam with Troops should we be in Want of Shipping for such a service, but on their reporting the Impropriety of trusting a suspected ship on a Lee Shore, at this violent Season with the Lives of so many People we gave over all Thoughts of employing her for that use

Consn 16 Novr  
30 Do

11. The Gentlemen at Bombay having acquainted us that the Lord Anson a Freight Ship who carried round some of the Anson's Consignments from hence to that Presidency, arrived with them

in a bad Condition, & that great Part of the Consn. 31 Augst. Company's woolen Goods and Salt Petre were damaged to a considerable Amount, & as it appeared to them by all the Enquiry they cou'd make, that the Ship was not in a proper Condition to pursue the Voyage when she was dispatched out of the river they therefore desired we wou'd call on the Owners to indemnifye the Company, accordingly we sent an Extract from the Bombay Letter regarding the Lord Anson, with the report and Opinion of the Committee appointed there for inspecting into the State of the Woolens to the Owners & called upon them to make good the Damages to the Company.

12. Soon after we received a Letter from the acting Owner of the Ship enclosing Depositions of the Carpenter that assisted the Master Carpenter lately dead in giving the necessary repairs to the Ship before she proceeded on her Voyage to Bombay, & of the Pilot that carried her out affirming that the Ship was in a very fit Condition to go to sea, he also assured us that the owners had all the reason in the World to suppose her a good ship & every Way calculated for taking Freight as she had just returned from Madrass

with a Cargoe of Salt in the very worst season of Consn. 19 Octr. the Year having left Conclon<sup>1</sup> [Concon?] so late as the 19th Octr. & delivered it without the least Damage in December. These Circumstnaces & two Protests against the Winds & Weather which were made by the Captain & Officers at Tillicherry & Bombay he hoped wou'd not only obviate the reflection of the Gentlemen at Bombay, that the ship was pushed out from hence unfit for sea but also indemnifye the Owners for the damages sustained by the Hon'ble Company which were unavoidable.

13. This Letter & the Papers accompanying it we referred to the Master Attendant giving him strict Orders to gain every Information possible of the true State of the Lord Anson when she left this Place & give a report of his Opinion—mean Time as the

acting Owner had informed us that he had Consn. [...] Octr. reason to believe from the Captain's Letter that the Gentlemen at Bombay wou'd detain the Ship until the Hon'ble Company was indemnified, we wrote to them requesting they wou'd let the Ship proceed on her destined Voyage as the Owners engaged & were sufficiently responsible for all demands that might be deemed just.

14. The result of the Master Attendant's Enquiry was that

the ship in going out had drove ashore near the Cockerlee Buoys where she lay the best Part of a Tide before she floated & received considerable Damage, that a rumour of this had never spread about Calcutta to his Knowledge before, & that it appeared the Officers of the Lord Anson (the Captain not being on board at the Time) had not acquainted the owners of the Accident that happened which rendered them extremely culpable, but the Pilot Mr Simpson much more so not only for keeping her Situation a Secret but for swearing in his Deposition given when called upon by the acting Owner that the Ship was only about ten Minutes ashore, & in a fit Condition to go to sea—The acting Owner upon the representation of the Master Attendant again addressed the Board assuring them that he could not wish if it were necessary for a better Confirmation of his report of the 15th Octr as it appeared the Accident happened & subsequent to her leaving Town & ever receiving her Cargoe on board, declaring upon his Honor that excepting a flying report at the Time of her having dragged her Anchor & touched the Ground that he never knew more of the Accident till the 13 October when the Pilot gave in his Deposition that if the Owners had the least Suspicion of her having met with any Damage which rendered her proceeding to sea dangerous they certainly woud not have permitted her to go out as they had not nor have a rupee insured

15 These Matters we have acquainted the Bombay Gentlemen with & shall endeavor to adjust the affair in the most equitable Manner upon the arrival of the Ship after taking the opinions of the Country Captains on the Subject For further Particulars we beg Leave to refer to the Minutes of [consultation] as marked in the Margin

16 The Conduct of Mr Simpson the Pilot who carried the Lord Anson out appearing in this Affair to be so extremely faulty having been guilty not only of Neglect but of Prevarications when upon Oath that we deemed him unfit to serve the Hon'ble Company any longer & therefore caused him to be immediately dismissed

17 The Gentlemen of the Select Committee having acquainted us with the Necessity of sending a Reinforcement of Troops & a supply of Treasure to the Coast, we ordered three of the Pilot's Vessels to Massulipatam, putting a Division of Men & a Lack of Rupees in Gold on each & directed them to be landed there pursuant to the request of the Governor & Council at Ft St George

18 Mr Sutton Banks having entered into an Indemnification

Bond to the Company for the Sum with which we reimbursed Mr. Dolben on Account of the Seizure of the King of Pegue's Ship of which we fully advised you in our Letter  
 Consn. 9 Novr. P Nottingham. We accordingly applied to him  
 16 Do for the payment of it, when he requested we would indulge him with a little more Time, this we have tacitly consented to, as we have Reason to suppose the King of Pegu will send round a ship & Cargoe to defray all the Demands which Mr Dolben had on his Noqueda (or Super Cargoe) & by a Letter from the Shawbunder at Pegu we find that a Ship had actually left that Place for the Purpose above mentioned but being obliged to put back through bad Weather & Mr. Fronde the Person who was to conduct her here not chusing to remain till she was properly refitted, the Vessel now waits for a Man to navigate her round.

19. The publick & private Trade of this Settlement having frequently severly (*sic*) suffered from the Want of Means to repair the Shipping, we are to request that you will please to permit us to construct a commodious Dock for that purpose which shall be compleated with the utmost Care & Frugality, and as the Owners of all Ships or Vessels making Use of the Dock would gladly pay a reasonable Charge for the Use of it, agreeably  
 Consn. 17 Augst. to the Practice now used at Bombay, & we flatter ourselves the Hon'ble Company would soon be reimbursed the Charges attending the Dock with Interest on their Money, if not the principal Cost in the Course of a few Years, as the Charge of making it must be considerably less than at Bombay Large Teak Timbers for piling the Foundation & making the Gates may be got from Pegu & all the other Materials are procurable here. The Utility of this Scheme is obvious not only for the reasons abovementioned but also for the Service of the Ships of War shou'd future Occurrences make it necessary to have a Squadron for the Protection of your Possessions in the bay.

20. That no time may be lost shou'd our Proposal meet with your Approbation, we have already ordered the Engineer & Master Attendant to fix on a proper Place & estimate as  
 Consn. Novr. 23d. nearly as possible the Expence with which it will be attended when their final report is given in we shall advise you thereof. We have also wrote to the Gentlemen at Bombay for a Plan & Model of their Docks from whence we can derive all the necessary Information for the Execution of our Scheme.

21. Having been informed that Captain Riddel had touched at Joanna on his Way hither, which being contrary  
 Consn. 30 Novr. to your Orders we called on him to account for this deviation when he informed us that being prevented

from going into St Augustin's Bay by easterly Winds & being shortly after in want of refreshment for his People he judged it best to put in at Jorruu, which could be attended with little or no delay & found no Inconvenience there as he took great Care to prevent his People from sleeping ashore These Reasons appeared to us entirely satisfactory

22 He also touched at Rio Janeiro where he had an Opportunity of enlisting fifteen Englishmen for your military & landed them here in good Health This Mark of  
 Consn 16 Novr Attention to the interest of his Employers we thought claimed our Notice, & we accordingly signified to him our approbation of the same

23 The Northington having landed her Troops at Vizagapatam returned the 23rd November, & as She had touched the Ground in coming in the first Time we ordered the Master  
 Consn 30 Novr  
 10 Decr attendant to examine if it was necessary to heave her down before she took any Part of her returning Cargoe on board, which he did and gave it as his Opinion corroborated by those of the Captain & Officers that the Ship had received no Manner of damage by that Accident The Earl of Elgin dispatched upon the same service also arrived the 30th November

24 On the Crescent a Country ship we sent round 5000 Maunds of Salt Petre for the use of the Bombay Presidency—and we shall send 6000 more on the Success Galley also 500  
 Consn 9 Decr  
 [3<sup>d</sup>] Do Maunds of rice for the use of the Fort Marlbro' Presidency on the Ship Fortune being the remainder of last year's Indent which the Jenny cou'd not take on board

*Secondly of Goods from Europe or from one Part  
 of India to another*

25 We have received one hundred & ten barrels of Powder that were consigned to the Fort St George Presi  
 Consn 1<sup>o</sup> Octr dency by the Europa for our use, & which came down on the same Ship to Bengal

26 The Gentlemen at Fort Marlbro' advising us they had received your Orders to charge 30 P Cent upon the prime Cost of the Wines they might receive from the other  
 Consn 5 Novr Presidencies, they desired we wou'd for that reason charge them only with prime Cost & Charges upon such as we supplied, we have accordingly directed the Import W House Keeper to comply with their request

27. The Madeira & Vidonia Wine imported here this Season on the Ships Calcutta, Norfolk & Lord Holland on being only inspected turns out as follows

	Pipes	Madeira Pipes	Vidonia Pipes
Madeira P Calcutta . . . . .	75		
deduct for filling the Deficiency by Leakage . . . . .	9		
	—	66	
Madeira P Norfolk . . . . .	75		
deduct as above . . . . .	9		
	—	66	
Vidonia P Lord Holland . . . . .	70		
deduct as above . . . . .	7		
	—		63
Sent to the Presidency at Fort Marlbro' .		4	4
		<u>128</u>	<u>59</u>

28. The Leakage it appears has entirely proceeded from the Badness of the Casks, both the Wines are good, but the Madeira more particularly so, which is at least equal to that of last year of the Vidonia that of Mr. Consn. 16 Novr. Collegan's House is a rich & fine Wine but that from Messrs Comying & Powers is of a weaker body & has a still burnt Taste.

29. As you have been pleased to order that the Company's Madeira and Vidonia Wine shou'd be divided amongst your civil & military servants at 30 P Cent advance on the Prime Cost We have agreed they shall be disposed of accordingly (allotting to each Class a Proportion suitable to their Station) & reserving a Quantity sufficient for the use of the Hospitals. Consn. 16 Novr.

30. As you did not send us out any ordinary Red Cloth this Year We were in great Want of some for the Use of our military, we therefore detained your Consignments of that Article on the Europa for the Bombay Presidency vizt. one hundred & seventeen Bales, the Remainder of her Cargoe was transhipped on board the Calcutta except the Masts, Yards & Spars which it was thought might in her present Condition strain the ship. These shall be sent to Bombay by the first Conveyance—Fifty eight Bales of damaged Broad Cloth of different Sorts are also left behind & these shall be inspected & valued by a Committee of black Merchants pursuant to your Directions in the 111th Par: of your Commands under date the 21st Novr. 1766. Consn. 30 Novr.



31 We have received the Medicines which you were pleased to send us this Season & the Surgeons report of them with their indent for a fresh supply go home numbers in the Packet & we beg Leave to request the Indent may be complied with

*Thurdly of Investments*

32 In the Letter which we had the Honor to address you P the Lord Holland we reply'd in part to the 24 Par of your Commands under date the 4 March 1767 regarding the Cargoes of the French & Dutch Ships We assured you from indubitable Authority that the publick Invoice of any one Ship dispatched to Europe by them did not amount to above two thirds of one of your Cargoes To the remainder of that Paragraph we have only to reply that we cannot learn of any Companys Servant or Person residing under the Companys Protection who had provided foreign Settlements with any Part of their Investment for Europe

33 Being very solicitous to comply with your Orders of the 4th March for Provision of Tanna Silk, we have permitted the Gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to establish a new Consn 28 Sept Aurung at Jungepore<sup>2</sup> where they are in Hopes of providing a sufficient quantity of that article not only to complete your Indent but also to answer in Part their demand for it in making Piece Goods

34 We were some time ago alarmed by Letters from Cossimbuzar & Dacca informing us the river had risen to such a height & the Floods were so strong as gave much Consn 28 Sept reason to fear they would be greatly impeded in the Provision of their Investment but as the rivers have fallen considerably since & the Floods are entirely taken off we flatter ourselves that we shall feel less inconvenience than was at first apprehended

35 The Gentlemen at Dacca represented to us their Apprehensions lest they should be impeded in the Provision of their Investment the ensuing year from the large Quantity of goods which the French were at present providing & their having declared they intended to purchase double the Quantity the Consn 28 Sept year following to this we recommended their securing the Delolls & Picars by early advances to effect which we assured them they should be very early supplied with a sufficient Quantity of Treasure & have accordingly sent Orders to the Resident at the Durbar to forward three Laacks of rupees immediately to Dacca

36 In Consequence of our Orders last year to the Chief &

Council at Cossimbuzar to endeavour to strike a Medium Price on their Silk as dispatch'd at different Times to the Presidency, they have since advised us that in ballancing their Books they find they have overrated the amount Dussmassa<sup>n</sup> Rupees 83,924-.

37. The scarcity of silver is so great at present that we shall not without the greatest difficulty be able to procure sufficient Quantity this season for China. We are therefore taking every precaution to secure remittances by Bills & otherwise to the other Presidencies upon their applying to us for Treasure. When the Bombay Gent: lately requested us to furnish them with a supply of five Laacks of rupees, we desired the Resident at the Durbar to get Bills to that Amount on Bombay and Surat from the Guzurat Merchants he advises us that he hopes to procure Bills for two Laacks & we flatter ourselves we shall be able to get Bills also for the remainder but as such Expedients are temporary & precarious at best we earnestly request you will take under your Consideration this subject upon which we understand the Gentlemen of the Select Committee have enlarged very fully in their several Letters.

38. On examining the Salt Petre provided this Year at Purnea & Patna we were of Opinion the former was of a better Quality than the latter, however for our further Information we ordered twenty Bags of each to be sent to the Committee of Powder Works to be worked up & proved & when they make their Report we will advise you of their Sentiments.

39. The very encreased Price of all Goods manufactured at the Aurungs will be manifest to you from observing the Rates at which your damaged Ferret Goods sold at an Outcry made the 19th August & from the remarks on that Occasion of the E W H Keeper to which we beg Leave to refer you.

We have the Pleasure to acquaint you that after compleating the Cargoe of this Ship we have a Ballance of Goods remaining in the Warehouse to the amount of 1260000 Rs of Which we intend loading to the amount of 95000 Rs on the Europa in hopes to dispatch her from hence early in January.

*Fourthly of the Trade of India Transactions with European Powers—Country Government &c.*

40. We acquainted you very fully in the General Letter which

we had the Honor to address you under date the 14th September  
 last of the Disputes in which we were engaged  
 Consn 5 Novr with the French & Dutch Councils since  
 Mr Chevalier's Arrival we have lived upon amicable Terms with  
 the French

41 On the Face of our Consultations you will observe a fresh  
 subject of Altercation between us & the Dutch Factory The  
 unwarrantable Seizure of an Officer of our  
 Consn Novr 23 Government & his violent Confinement on  
 board a Dutch Europe Ship at Futta<sup>4</sup> were represented to  
 our President by the Coll General Mr Verelst wrote in Conse-  
 quence to the Directore requesting he wou'd make a proper  
 Enquiry into the Affair, & such redress as the Nature of the Insult  
 to our Government required The Directore's answer stands upon  
 the Consultation & is so very extraordinary in the Stile & demands,  
 that we thought it necessary to apply to the Council at Chinsura  
 either to avow or disapprove the sentiments of their Directore as his  
 Letter implied little less than that they wou'd on all Occasions hold  
 the Power of redressing Grievances in their own Hands but as yet  
 we have received no reply to our Letter

42 In our Letter by the Lord Holland the Intention of  
 sending Messrs Bathoe & Delaporte on a Circuit of the Aurungs  
 stood fully explained & we beg Leave to refer you to the Corres-  
 pondence of the former of these Gentlemen which goes Home a  
 Number in the Packet—for a clear Description of the State of the  
 Aurungs the Causes of the present Disputes with foreign Nations &  
 the demands of the French & Dutch Agents

43 Having received Information that the French were enlarging  
 their Bounds by Encroachments on the Lands of the Government &  
 the Province of Burdwan without applying to  
 Consn Novr 5 to the Ministers or us & judging it necessary to  
 give an early Check to all such Encroachments we set on Foot a  
 strict Enquiry into this Affair & are Determined to oblige them to  
 relinquish whatever they have assumed which may be converted to  
 any detrimental Purpose

#### *Fifthly of Fortifications Buildings & Revenues*

44 The Clergymen & Church Wardens representing to us that  
 by a publick subscription they had enlarged the Court House with  
 a View of encreasing the Charter by augmenting  
 Consn 29 Apr the rent of the Buildings & as the same was  
 held by the Company for their Courts of Judicature & publick  
 meetings they requested the rent might be raised and the Board

sensible there was no other Building which wou'd so commodiously answer the above Purposes & that if let to private Persons it wou'd yield much more have consented to raise the rent from two to four thousand rupees p annum.

45. Agreeably to what we advised you in our last the Proceedings  
 [...] Sepr. Consn. of the board on the Calcutta Lands now  
 Consn. 20 Augst. go home a number in the Packet & we  
 3d. Sepr. have the Pleasure to acquaint you that the  
 Collections are regularly kept up.

46. The Gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having represented that  
 the Chief's Apartments were greatly out of repair we have  
 Consn. [...] Oct. permitted them to be refitted as the repara-  
 tion appeared necessary & Estimate they for-  
 warded to us of the Expençe reasonable.

47. We have also permitted them to build Godowns at the  
 Consn. 5 Novr. new Aurung Jungapore also to repair those at  
 the Factory pursuant to their request.

48. With the View of forwarding the New Works & of reducing  
 within moderate Bounds the Charges incurred by publick Buildings  
 we have come to the resolution that a Member of the board attended  
 by the Chief Engineer & Civil Architect shall weekly inspect the  
 Works & make a regular report of the Progress made & Charges  
 incurred since the preceeding Visitation to which we beg Leave  
 to refer as they stand entered on the Consultations.

49. The Owner of Surmon's Gardens<sup>s</sup> having acquainted us he  
 had an Opportunity of disposing of that Ground for ten thousand  
 Consn. [24?] Novr. rupees but as they might be useful to the  
 Company he beg'd Leave to make us the  
 first Offer, we readily embraced the Proposal; as we had long  
 since judged it improper that a Place so situated in regard to the  
 Fort & River shou'd remain in the Hands of private Persons.

50. In the 30 Paragraph of our General Letter under date the  
 30 March Pr. Mercury we acquainted you that we had fixed upon a  
 Spot on the other side of the river opposite Surmon's Gardens for  
 building a New Hospital, & that we shou'd transmit you a Plan  
 and Estimate of the Expençe attending it but upon hearing the  
 Estimate laid before us we deemed the Expençe so exorbitant &  
 Inconveniences from the situation also occurring to us we determined  
 to postpone our resolutions on that subject.

51. We are sorry to acquaint you that the Chunam provided

by the Government is of a much worse Assortment than that Provided at the Pergunnahs & at the same Time much dearer We have therefore desired the Resident at the Consn 16 Novr Durbar to enquire into the Cause, & see if we cannot be furnished by the Government at a better and cheaper Rate, shou'd we find it cannot furnish us—We shall then fall upon some other Method for supplying you

52 The 31st Paragraph of your last Letter advised you of the Chief & Council at Chittagong having represented the dangerous Situation of the Factory House at Luckypore,<sup>a</sup> Consn 23 Novr Do & our having sent Mr Plaisted to survey the same and fix on a proper Spot for building new Godowns for the reception of the Company's Cloths He accordingly proceeded on that Service & at his return deliver'd in a report of his survey but as there was some Objections to the Spot he pitched upon for the New Buildings & his Plan was in general thought too extensive we did not adopt it, but have sent Orders to let the present washing Houses remain as they are already at a proper Distance from the river and to build a small House for the Resident and a few Godowns for the Cloths, and this we have recommended may be done in the least expensive and best manner

53 Finding that the Method of building by Contract is not only a great saving but more expeditious in itself we are resolved to encourage the giving Proposals for furnishing Coolies by Contract & shou'd we succeed in this Scheme we flatter ourselves the publick works will be executed in a less expensive & more speedy manner than formerly

54 We have now under Consideration the 62nd Paragraph of your Genl Lre under date the 21 November wherein you order us to reconsider the subject of fixing the Sicca Rupee on a permanent footing and we shall write you very fully on the Subject by the next Ship

*Sixthly & Seventhly of Covenanted & Military  
Servants and Accounts*

55 Mr John Briscoe whom we advised you in our 1st Letter was on a Country Voyage when your Orders arrived appointing him in the Service, has since returned & we have stationed him in the Treasury Office

56 We have received Concessions by Letter from all the Servants at the Subordinates who were concerned in the Association which incurred your Displeasure, all of which were very satisfactory expressing a due sense Consn 5 Novr

of the offence & a resolution to avoid falling into a like offence in future.

57. The Committee of Inspection having considered with much  
 Consn. 5 Novr. Attention your Orders concerning the Junior  
 Servants in your Letter of the 4 March proposed  
 the following regulations to be made in Consequence vizt.

*First*—With respect to the Servants necessary to be kept by a Writer without a family the Committee are of Opinion that he shou'd be allowed two and a Cook, one for the immediate Care of his House and Charge of his Effects & another to attend him when he goes out or to assist him in the Charge of his Effects & House in Case of sickness to the other.

*Second*—It is recommended that an Order be issued, that no Writer shall be allowed to keep a House without the express Permission of the Governor or be permitted either of himself or jointly with others to keep a Garden House.

*Third*—It is further recommended that the Writers be enjoined to wear no other than plain Cloaths.

58. These regulations we have approved and are determined shall be strictly adhered to, indeed the general good Behaviour of the Servants for some Time past, & the Order & Decorum they at present observe gives us no room to doubt our Orders in all Points being implicitly obeyed without the Necessity of enforcing them by severity.

59. With respect to Palankeens we are thoroughly convinced that they are absolutely necessary for the Preservation of the Writer's Healths in this intemperate Climate & have therefore taken the Liberty to recede from your Orders regarding them.

60. We are sorry to acquaint you with the death of Mr Bar: Plaisted,<sup>7</sup> he departed this Life after a fever of ten days the 27th Octr. last.

61. By Letters from Vizagapatam we received the melancholy advice of the Death of Lt. Col. Wm. Smith who died there on  
 Consn. 16 Novr. the 10th last Novr. after a lingering illness. We cannot sufficiently lament the Loss of that good and gallant Officer.

62. Captain Selby Padman of the third Brigade having behaved himself in a manner very unbecoming an Officer in a Quarrel between him and a Surgeon's Assistant of the same Brigade a Court of Enquiry has been held on his Conduct where it appeared so

evidently he must be broke if brought to a Court Martial that thro' a delicacy to the Corps he was permitted to leave his brigade in Order to resign the Service, and he is now on his way to the Presidency for that Purpose

63 The Surgeon's Assistant has also been severely reprimanded for the improper Part he bore in the Quarrel—for further Particulars regarding this Affair we beg Leave to refer you to the Proceedings of the Court of Enquiry which with the Proceedings of the Courts Martial that have been lately held shall be carefully transmitted

64 Mr George Mainwarring Kinderdine one of the Surgeons of the first brigade having been represented to us by Colonel Peache  
 Cons 1 Octr as a Person totally void of Attention to his  
 19 Octr Business we thought proper to dismiss him from your service since which he has made several Applications to us to procure him a hearing before a Court of Enquiry, alledging that he could produce many Witnesses to prove he had not been remiss in his duty, these Letters were referred to Col Peach who has delivered such Testimonies from Lt Col Pemble & Mr Williams Surgeon Major of the Brigade as have obliged us to confirm his Dismission

65 Messrs Nicol & Drvie of whose Conduct we have acquainted you fully in our Letter P Mercury and Lord Holland were sent down the river in order to embark on the latter but being taken extremely ill on their Passage down as also the Officer who had Charge of them they were obliged to return to Town where the Officer soon after died & they remained some Time very ill, you may however be assured they shall proceed to Europe as soon as their Healths are established

66 We send you by this Conveyance such Covenants as have been executed by your servants since our last Dispatch also Duplicates of those that went in the Lord Holland's Packet

67 We have come to the resolution of drawing the whole Amount of Bills for the Season by the Europa the 3rd Ship, that you may have the earliest & that the Proprietors may have an Opportunity of transmitting the 2nd & 3rd Bills which Method will prevent great Confusion in making out the Bills as we should were we to follow the Distribution you propose, be obliged to grant every Individual a seperate Bill by each ship

68 You will observe by our regulations that appear on the face of the Consultations had none but such Persons particularly pointed out by you, besides Company's civil & military Servants are indulged in this Priveledge

69. We have duly honored your Bill of Exchange in Favor of Richd. Crabb Esqr. &ca. Owners of the Norfolk tendered to us by Captain Jno. Sandys for six hundred Pounds amounting to Current Rupees five thousand seven hundred and sixty.

70. Captain Sandys also sent in a Bill for necessities with which he supply'd the Soldiers on Board his Ship at Portsmouth amounting to Current Rupees 321. This being an unusual Demand we refused to pay it until he produced a Letter from Mr Coggan at the India House wrote by Order of the Committee of Shipping permitting him to supply these Men with such necessarys, which we deeming a sufficient Authority his Bill was accordingly discharged.

71. A particular account of the different bills drawn upon us in Europe in Favor of Individuals shall be carefully transmitted with the List of Bills drawn here on the Hon'ble Company by the next Ship.

72. Having received Complaints from the Officers of the Europe ships that their Commanders did not allow them their proper Proportions in the five thousand Pounds remittance with which you are pleased to indulge them, we have formed Distribution agreeably to the Tonnage of their respective Priviledges & have directed the Captains to divide the Remittance accordingly.

73. The Gentlemen at Patna have represented to us that their Books will be compleated in Time to be sent to Europe by the third Ship of the year and also desired to receive our Orders regarding two Mends in them that required to be examined into Vizt. Provisions for the Army remaining a Ballance of Ely<sup>s</sup> Rupees 305368-7-6 and Military Cash remaining a Ballance of Ely Rupees 150504-14 the first has arisen from Grain & other articles being purchased by Mr Billers in a Time of Scarcity & sent to supply the Troops with of which no regular Account has ever been kept nor is there any of the Several Articles purchased remaining, the Ballance of the latter is brought down to the 30 June 1765 but from whence this Ballance was received or what accounts were before kept under this Head cannot be specified as notwithstanding our utmost Endeavors we cannot obtain any information of these particulars. We have ordered the Chief & Council at Patna to put them for the present under the Heads of Unadjusted Articles & finish their Books without delay.

74. Mr Grant's Contract for providing & feeding Bullocks & dieting the Troops being nearly expired Publication in the Usual Manner is made that the Contract for the ensuing Year will be given to the lowest responsible Bidder.



*Eighthly Touching the Charter*

75 We are now come to a Subject which calls for your most Serious Consideration it relates to the Conduct of Mr Wm Bolts lately in your service & we think it proper to introduce it under this Head as it requires a full Exertion of the Priviledges Granted in the Royal Charter to you & delegated to your Representatives in India to resent in a proper Manner the Insult given to our Government in the Person of our President and the daring Attempt not only to lessen our influence in the Country whereby your Interest would infallibly suffer but also to destroy that Harmony which now so happily prevails in your Councils These purposes so unnatural to a British subject who has acquired an opulent Fortune in your service Mr Bolts attempted to effect by personal addresses to our Board & Secret Correspondencies carried on through the Means of Armenian Agents at the Courts of Sujah Dowla & of other Princes

76 We acquainted you in our last Letter that in Consequence of the resolution taken by the Select Committee regarding Mr Bolts we had sent him positive orders to return to Europe this Season Some Time after we received a long Letter from Chinsura at which Place he frequently resided for some Time past informing us with much Freedom of Style that if we would take his Concerns and those of his Constituents off his Hands he would then comply with our Directions The Insolence of his Reply not only induced us to repeat our Orders but on his return to Town to forbid his quitting the Colony until his Time for his Embarkation arrived In defiance of which he immediately withdrew from the Presidency and returned to Chinsura from whence he sent us a most insulting Letter reflecting upon the Character of our President and of several of the members of our Board This was accompanied by a long address to you the Absurdity & Malice of which is too evident to require any Strictures from us we shall therefore forward it without remarks a number in the Packet The Measures we had recourse to on this Occasion were these first unanimously to assure the President that we approved of the whole of his Conduct during the Course of his Proceedings in regard to Mr Bolts and that we entertained the warmest resentment against Mr Bolts for presuming upon so libellous & unjust an attack upon the Character of our Governor & next to determine on our repeating our peremptory orders for him to proceed to Europe without delay with which if he refuses Compliance we shall seize him by Force & send him Prisoner on one of the Ships of this Season The expediency of fulfilling this resolution becomes still more evident from the Intelligence we have since received of his informing Monsr Gentil a French man at the

Court of Sujah Dowla by Letter that the Company's Affairs in Europe were in the utmost Confusion & that his Associate Mr Johnstone as he terms him, wou'd be appointed Governor on the

Part of his Majesty, An attested Copy of this  
 Consn. 10 Decr. Letter appears in our Consultations & the Original is now in the Hands of Colonel Smith several other Letters to different People in power at the Indostan Courts, of this Tendency have been seen.

77. The Danger of such Proceedings are too apparent, & must justify whatever Method we purpose to rid the Country of a man who endeavors by false reports & representation to lessen the respect due to the present administration, & to destroy the Confidence now subsisting between us & the Powers of Indostan.

78. For further particulars regarding the Circumstances before mentioned we beg Leave to refer you to the  
 Consn. 1st Octr., 5  
 Novr., 23 Novr., 10 Decr. several Papers & Letters which are entered on the face of the Consultations as marked off in the Margin.

79. Having now represented fully to you the Conduct of Mr Bolts we beg Leave to point out to you the Necessity of having the Extent of our Authority indisputably fixed with regard to sending Persons home by Force who will not comply with our Orders, for if this Power is not granted & persons are allowed to remain here & set our Government to defiance with Impunity, Anarchy & Confusion must unfallably (*sic*) take Place & your Influence in these Parts in the End be totally subverted.

80. As Mr Bolts is an Alderman of the Mayor's Court we have duly advised the Court of our Intention to send him home on one of the Ships of this Season.

81. There being a Vacancy in the Mayor's Court by the Resignation of Mr Robt. Dobinson we have appointed Mr Jno. Sevill to be an Alderman in the said Court in his room.

82. Mr Cornelius Goodwin has been duly elected Mayor of the Town of Calcutta & Mr. Simeon Droz has also been sworn in to the Office of Sheriff for the ensuing year.

### *Supplement*

83. As the Dispatch of a Ship to Europe early in the Season may frequently be of the utmost importance  
 Consn. 27 July to your Affairs & as the Charter Party agreement at present restricts us from making a Dispatch before the 21st

Now we beg Leave to request if it can be conveniently done that you will get some Provision made for instances of this kind

84 You will find by our Seperate Proceedings regarding the Calcutta Lands that we have annexed an additional Pay Allowance of [1500?] Rs P Month to the Office of Collector General in Consequence of the Labor & attention which the nature of his Duty requires We have, therefore earnestly to request you will please to confirm this Allowance

85 The Ballance remaining in your Treasury this day is Current Rs 18,848 11 13 3 & in your Cash Chest, 9995 12 5 & the Regr of Diamonds by this Ship amounts to CRs 83,305 2 0

We are  
Honorable Sirs  
Your faithful & obedt  
Servants

Fort William  
10 Decr 1767

*Postscript* —We have granted Certificates to the Capt and Chief Officer of the Ship Norfolk pursuant to the Indulgencies allowed by you to the Captains and Officers of Europe Ships Viz Two setts one sett for Current Rupees 41558 7 In favor of Capt Jno Sandys bearing Date the [ ] One sett for CRs 2886 In favor of Mr David Welch Chief Officer bearing Date the [ ]

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your faithful & obedient  
Servants

Fort William  
10 Decr. 1767.

## 12

## LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1767

*Annual investment expected to be not less than 56 lakhs—bills on the Company to amount to 14 lakhs—plan of fixing the Sicca on a permanent footing dropped*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs

1 We last had the Honor to address you under Date the

10 Instant P Norfolk Duplicate of which Letter now goes a number in the Packet; this serves to acquaint you that the Europa being fully laden we have directed Capt. Pelly to proceed immediately to you and we hope her speedy Dispatch after the Norfolk will afford you Satisfaction.

2. We sent the Egmont with the usual Tonnage of Salt Petre and redwood to Fort St. George the 21st Instant that she might complete her Lading there and from thence proceed to Europe; we directed Captain Mears to touch on his Way at Massulipatam, and land Colonel Joseph Peach whom with one Company of Europeans fifty Artillery & some military Stores were sent there as also five Laacks of Rupees in Gold Mohurs to be landed at Fort St George at the request of the Gentlemen of the Select Committee in order to assist that Presidency in supporting the present War in the Carnatick.

3. The Royal Admiral arrived here from Fort St George the 21st Instant, she was sent by the Gentlemen at Fort Marlbro' to receive and convey to them the annual Consignments from Madrass & this Place for the Use of their Presidency, & as soon as she has had some necessary repairs she will be directly returned to Fort Marlbro'.

4. We send you by this Ship three Calcutta Gold Mohurs, 3 Calcutta sicca rupees & three Arcot Rupees which has been duly assayed, as P particulars inserted in the Assay Masters Letter which is entered in the Consultations of this date.

5. Mr Campbell's ill state of Health rendering a longer Stay in India dangerous to him he has requested our Permission to resign your Service, which we have accordingly granted & he now proceeds to Europe with his Family on the Europa—we beg leave to take this Opportunity of recommending him to your Notice for his indefatigable attention to the Business he was engaged in.

6. He has been succeeded in the Employ of Secretary to the Select Committee by Mr Floyer & in that of Mint Master by Mr Alexander & in that of Assay Master by Mr Bentley.

7. We acquainted you in our Letter P. the Norfolk that we shou'd grant Bills on you P the Europa to the amount of your Indulgence which is one quarter Part of the whole of this Year's Investment. The value of which for this Season we hope will not be less than fifty six Laacks of rupees, the full amount therefore of our remittances which will be granted this year will extent to [1.....] Laack of rupees.

8 As we judge it equitably to indulge such of your Servants as have served you faithfully and are by Indisposition or other indispensable Calls obliged to return to Europe with an additional Allowance in the Remittances, we have granted Mr Campbell an indulgence of £2000, & Major Stubbert who is also returning with his Family £500 which we flatter ourselves you will not disapprove of

9 In the 54 Paragraph of our last General Letter under the established Heads, we acquainted you that we had your Orders regarding the fixing of the Sicca on a permanent footing under Consideration The President applied to the Minister on the Subject whose reply was delivered to Mr Campbell & he desired to give his Sentiments in full, how far such a Measure in his Estimation was practicable That Gentleman's Opinion stands upon our Consultations & proves to our Satisfaction, that many Inconveniences as well as danger to the Coin & Investment would result from an attempt to establish this Measure for the present, we have accordingly determined to drop all Intention of endeavoring to effect this Business & we hope you will on pursuing Mr Campbells Letter approve of our Determination

10 After the Norfolk's Dispatches were closed Messrs Nicol and Davie privately applied to the Governor for Permission voluntarily to proceed to Europe which it was judged proper to grant them and they accordingly proceeded on board that Ship

11 We send a number in the Papers of this Packet the Proceedings of a Court of Admiralty which was held at different Times for the Tryal of a Crew belonging to a Vessel called the Tryal Ketch which was returning from Junk Ceylon (and of which one Saml Barrett was Master) when the said Crew in the 8th degree of Northern Latitude mutinied & murdered the Captain A Passenger who acted as mate on board the Vessel, the Captains Butler and a boy also robbed & secreted several of the Effects on board the said Ketch at the Instigation of a Serang & a Coffree who was the Ship's Cook after perpetrating this horrid act, they continued a long while at Sea without knowing where they were till at last they were drove into Ballasore Road where one of the Company's Pilots took them up & conducted the Vessel to Town The Serang having made his Escape from her as soon as he knew the Vessel was coming up to Calcutta the rest of the Crew were secured & brought to their Trial being ten in number of which five were condemned to Death & the rest acquitted, of those condemned two particularly who appeared the Principals have been executed, the remaining three whose names are Aupiah otherwise Opiah, Suchmurs & Nionundah all Lascars appeared to have been compelled by the superior sway of the Persons

who have suffered. We therefore beg Leave to intercede in their behalf & to request you will implore & endeavor to obtain his Majesty's most gracious Pardon for them. We shall keep them secured in close Confinement, until his Majesty's royal Pleasure is known; all diligent search has been made after the serang but as yet it has proved fruitless.

12. The Ballance remaining in your Treasury this day is 34,78,921-3 & in your Cash Chest 93,847-8 and the register of Diamonds on this ship amounts to Ct Rs 43,815-6-9.

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your faithful and obedient  
Servants

Fort William  
the 31st Decr. 1767.

*Postscript:*—We have granted Certificates to the Captains of the Ships Europa & Northington one sett for CRs 44444-7 in favor of Capt. Henry Hinde Pelly.

1 Sett for Curt. Rs 44444-7 in favor of Captain John Sealy.

We have also granted on the usual Terms the following Letter of Bills Vizt.

## Register of Persons who have apply'd for Bills of Exchange

[Setts]	To whom granted	Currt Rs	To whom payable	£ Sterling
1	Henry Plowman Acct Is Sage	4444 7 0	Isaac Sage	500 0 0
1	Do Acct Geo Vansittart	4444 7 0	Henry Vansittart & Roger Boehm	500 0 0
1	Do Acct Gilbert Ironside	4444 7 0	John Grant	500 0 0
1	Messrs Vansittart & Plowman being in full return for one Chest of Coral Beads marked I S B Imported P ship Calcutta	[550?] 15 0	Joseph Salvador or order	62 1 [ ]
1	Messrs Vansittart & Plowman being in full return for one Chest of Coral Beads marked L S L Imported P ship Britannia	3201 12 6	Judah Supino	360 4 [ ]
1	Messrs Vansittart & Plowman being in full return for one Chest of Coral Beads marked L B imported P Ship Ld Camden	1782 12 3	Edmund Boehm & Sons	200 1 [ ]
1	Messrs Vansittart & Plowman being in full return for one Chest of Coral Beads marked E S B imported P Ship Hector	3,81 2 0	Joseph Salvador or order	402 0 [ ]
1	Messrs Vansittart & Plowman being in full return for one Chest of Coral Beads marked M S A imported P Ship Lord Holland	29°0 5 3	Judah Supino or order	328 [10 ?]
1	Thos Gibson Acct Wm Lambert	4444 7 0	Thomas Gibson	500 0 0
1	Wm Lushington	2222 3 6	Stephen Lushington	250 0 0
1	Thos Higgins Commissary	1777 12 3	Himself	200 0 0
1	George Draycot	2222 3 6	Thomas Beal	250 0 0
1	George [Bottom?] Eyres	2222 3 6	Robert Jones	250 0 0
1	[Jacob?] Carnac	2222 3 6	John Carnack	250 0 0
1	[ ] Gladwin	2222 3 6	Thomas Gladwin	250 0 0
1	Harry Palmer Acct William Fenwick	888 14 3	John Fenwick	250 0 0
1	Page keble	4444 7 0	W B Sumner & Roger Hanmer	100 0 0
1	Joseph Jekyll	8888 14 3	Himself	500 0 0
1	[Russ ?] Skinner acct P M Dacres	8888 14 3	Himself	1000 0 0
1	Russel Skinner Den Welding	2222 3 6	Benjamin Welding	250 0 0
1	Russel Skinner acct G Williamson	4444 7 0	Nice Forster & Maximilian Foster	250 0 0
				500 0 0

## Register of Persons who have apply'd for Bills of Exchange.

[Settis]	To whom granted	Currt. Rs.		To whom payable		£ Sterling
1	Rus: Skinner acct. G. Williamson	4444	7 0	Rv. Staples & Roger Sheffield		500 0 0
1	Russel Skinner	8888	14 3	Joseph Skinner		1000 0 0
1	Rus: Skinner acct. Douglass [Hill] *	1777	12 3	Margaret Sloan		200 0 0
1	Rus: Skinner acct. Jno. Fullarton	2222	3 6	William Fullarton		250 0 0
1	Herbert Harris acct. Rob Palk	4444	7 0	Robert Palk		500 0 0
1	Simeon Droz	4444	7 0	Jno. Carnac Chas. [Bodlian?]		
	[ . . . . ] Grant acct. Col: Grant			Frar. [Drummond?]		
1	John Taylor	4444	7 0	Alexander Grant		500 0 0
1	William Bensley	4444	7 0	Himself		500 0 0
1	[ . . . . ] Cooke acct. [Ch . . . .] Rogers	2222	3 6	Himself		500 0 0
1	Thos. Cosly Cooke	8888	14 3	[Ch. . . . .] Rogers		250 0 0
1	[ . . . . ] Price acct. James [Harris]	444	7 0	Mary Mandeville		1000 0 0
1	Charles Morgan	8888	14 3	Charles Harris		50 0 0
1	Giles Stibbert	2222	3 6	Himself		1000 0 0
1	The Revd. William Parry	1777	12 3	Himself		250 0 0
1	Ben: Randall acct. George Thomas	8888	14 3	Himself		2000 0 0
1	Robt. Hunter Junr.	2222	3 6	Himself		1000 0 0
1	Robt. Hunter acct. Aw. Hunter	2222	3 6	Maria Thomas		250 0 0
1	William Harwood	4444	7 0	Himself		500 0 0
1	Rt. Saunderson acct. Jno. Pierce	2222	3 6	Andrew Hunter		250 0 0
1	Charles Bentley	1000	0 0	Himself		116 13 0
1	Jno. Paddy acct. Thos. Charlton.	2222	3 6	John Pierce		250 0 0
1	James Laurell	1777	12 3	Himself		200 0 0
1	James Laurell acct. J. Graham	8888	14 3	Francis Charlton		1000 0 0
1	James Lister acct. W. Marriott	8888	14 3	Himself		1000 0 0
1	Jas. Lister acct. James Rennell	8888	14 3	Jno. Graham		1000 0 0
1	Richard Barwell	2222	3 6	William Marriott		250 0 0
1	Richard Witts	2222	3 6	James Rennell		250 0 0
1	William Barton	8888	14 3	Himself		1000 0 0
1	Jno. Holme acct. Ht. Forbes Junr.	4444	7 0	Himself		500 0 0
1	Jno. Holme	8888	14 3	Hwt. Forbes Senr.		500 0 0
1	Jno. Grose	2222	3 6	Himself		1000 0 0
1	Jno. Grose acct. Jno. Grant	888	14 3	Edward Grose		250 0 0
1	Thos. Woodward	888	14 3	Staats Long Morris		100 0 0
		8888	14 3	Himself		1000 0 0



## Register of Persons who have apply'd for Bills of Exchange

[Settles]	To whom granted	Currt Rs	To whom payable	£ Sterling
1	Thos Sheeles	2222 3	Jas Hinchell and Son (sic)	250 0 0
1	Sutton Banks acct Peter Angersteen	2222 3	Peter Angersteen	250 0 0
1	Sutton Banks acct Jno Upton	4444 7	Peter Shaw	500 0 0
1	Fleming Martin	4444 7	Himself	500 0 0
1	Richd Dean	1777 12	John Parry	200 0 0
1	Wm Harwood acct Ed Golding	888 14	[Ficennes?] Eddowes	100 0 0
1	Wm Harwood acct B G Wright	1777 12	B G Wright	200 0 0
1	Herbert Harris acct R Colvill	888 14	Robt Colvill	100 0 0
1	James Ellis	4444 7	Himself	500 0 0
1	Thos Pearson	2222 3	Himself	250 0 0
1	Jas Ellis acct Anderson	4444 7	Thomas Anderson	500 0 0
1	Jno Routledge acct Geo Rooke	1333 5	George Rooke	150 0 0
1	Sutton Banks acct Grainger Muir	2222 3	Grainger Muir	250 0 0
1	Sutton Banks acct T Lane Junr	4444 7	Thomas Lane Sent	500 0 0
1	Henry Goodwin	8888 14	Himself or Order	1000 0 0
1	Jas Lister acct Chas Scott	1333 5	Charles Scott	150 0 0
1	Rt Davidson	2222 3	Himself	250 0 0
1	Wm [Bedseam?]	888 14	Rt Nettleton, Cull Smith & W Sykes	100 0 0
1	Jas Ellis acct Ar Cobham	2222 3	Alexr Cobham	250 0 0
1	Robt Hunter acct J Davidson	4444 7	John Davidson	500 0 0
1	Nicholas Grueber	4444 7	Himself	500 0 0
1	[ ] Wynne acct Rt Madison	4444 7	[ ]	1
1	[ ] Hunter acct Dl Campbell	2222 3	Robert Maddison	500 0 0
1	John Ferguson	2222 3	Daniel Campbell	250 0 0
1	Thomas Mc Donald	2222 3	Revd Mr Ad Ferguson	250 0 0
1	Wm Harwood A Ewan Law	1777 12	Colin Mc Kenzie	200 0 0
1	F O Jones acct Sir R Barker	888 14	Revd Dr Edmund Law	100 0 0
1	[ ] B Goolad	8888 14	G Lewis Scott Jno Devayne	1000 0 0
1	[ ] Wynne acct Jno Chamier	535 3	Himself	60 0 0
1	[ ] Knott acct Walter Wilkins	2222 3	John Chamier	250 0 0
1	The Hon ble H Verelst Esqr	8888 14	Rt Nettleton, T Ranks & W Nixton	1000 0 0
1	Jno Cartier	53 333 5	Himself	6000 0 0
		35 555 8		4000 0 0

# Register of Persons who have apply'd for Bills of Exchange.

[Setts]	To whom granted	Curr. Rs.	To whom payable		£ Sterling
1	Richard Becher	26,666 10 6	Rt. Nettleton	T. Raikes & W. Nixon	3000 0 0
1	[ . . . . ] Sykes	26,666 10 6	R. Nettleton,	Cu: Smith & W. Sykes	3000 0 0
1	[Jas?] Alexander	26,666 10 6	Himself		3000 0 0
1	Ris: Skinner acct. T. Rumbold	26,666 10 6	Messrs. Rt. Nettleton & T. Raikes		3000 0 0
1	Claud Russell	26,666 10 6	Wm. Russell		3000 0 0
1	Wm. Aldersey	26,666 10 6	Himself		3000 0 0
1	Wm. Aldersey acct. T. Kelsall	26,666 10 6	Jo. Kelsall	Jo. Pybus & G. Clive	3000 0 0
1	Charles Floyer	26,666 10 6	Himself		3000 0 0
1	Alex. Campbell	44,444 7 0	Himself		5000 0 0
1	[Harry?] Verelst Esqr. acct. B. Plaisted	4444 7 0	T. Burnet his Heirs or Assigns		500 0 0
1	Claud Russell acct. T. Russel	2222 3 6	William Russel		250 0 0
1	Cs. Floyer acct. Rcd. Smith	26,666 10 6	Richard Smith		3000 0 0
1	[Jno.] Reed acct. Ed: Jno. Wood deceased	4444 7 0	John Reed		500 0 0
1	[Jno. Reed?]	4444 7 0	Himself		500 0 0
1	Harry Verelst Esqr. acctot. The Right Hon'ble	200,000 0 0	The Right Hon'ble Rt. Lord Clive his Order Heirs or Assigns		22,500 0 0
1	Robert Lord Clive				
1	Rt. Hunter	4444 7 0	Himself		500 0 0
1	Thos. Hewitt	8888 14 3	Himself		1000 0 0
		948,688 15 3			£106,731 13 11

## LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1768

*Relations with the King of Pegu — the Pegu ship Tetuinbein.*

**T**O the Honorable the Court of directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. We did ourselves the pleasure to address you last under date 31st Decr. 1767 p Europa who we have the pleasure to acquaint you left her pilot 11th Janry.

2. The Earl of Elgin being completely loaded we now dispatch her to you and as we flatter ourselves the Northington with a full Cargoe also will shortly follow; We shall then take an opportunity of acquainting you with every particular of your affairs since the Europa's dispatch. By her we shall also send the Broken sett of Consultations which on account of their being voluminous could not be prepared without a detention of this ship whose speedy arrival with you we deemed of more material importance.

3. We forward to you by this opportunity the annual indents from the different offices & request they may be as fully complied with as possible.

4. We also send in this packet our chief engineers address to you which he enclosed to us for that purpose.

5. We are sorry to acquaint you with the death of Mr Thomas French: he dies this morning early of the Gout in his head & Stomack: he is succeeded in his office of Store Keeper to the New Works by Mr. Richard Barwell.

6. We cannot close this letter without advising you of a Circumstance which has lately come to light regarding the ship *Tetuenbien* a vessel of which there has already been frequent mention made to you.

7. You are no doubt well acquainted with that ships being returned from hence to the king of Pegue by Lord Clive in the year 1766. His Majesty of Pegue was so well pleased with Lord Clive's Conduct as well as his Lordship's present and letter to him that he ordered the ship to be returned as a present to his Lordship or the Governor of Bengal for the time being. He likewise granted to the

Hon'ble Company a piece of ground near the river at Rangoon containing two hundred fathoms in Length and one Hundred in breadth to erect a factory on & also presented on the occasion an [Elephant?] as marks of his esteem for the English nation.

8. The King of Pegue directed one of his officers at Rangoon to dispatch the ship to Lord Clive. In consequence the said officer gave the Command of her to one Moses Smith with directions to proceed hither and tender the ship to Lord Clive as the Governor for the time being—but Mr Smith seems to have entered into a confederacy with Tyson & Richard Dundass, two persons residing at Rangoon, to prevent [*sic*] the Kings intentions by concealing these circumstances & pretending that she belonged to the abovementioned Officer one Gregory Avas the Kings Shaw Bunder at Rangoon, for whom he said he acted as Captain and Super Cargo. In order the better to effect this design Tyson who was employed by the Shawbunder to write a letter in English to our Governor informing him of the present his Majesty sent him penned an other foreign to the purpose & which he thought would best suit their design & persuaded the Shawbunder to sign it, assuring him it was dictated agreeably to his intentions.

9. Messrs. Waple and Banks two Merchants of this place had previously ordered their agents at Rangoon to purchase this ship if they could from the King and had been at some expense for presents to his Majesty in order to induce him to sell her, but this he peremptorily refused. In consequence of the Charges they had been at & the assurances they had recd. from Capt. Smith of the ships having been purchased on their acct. when she arrived here they laid claim to her in the Mayors Court & by virtue of her warrant she was attacked on their account. The Captain then denied their having any property in her alledging that he was not able to purchase her for them & both parties had recourse to the Law.

10. During this dispute the President had Intelligence of the fraud that was carrying on from some persons who just arrived from Pegue & had seen the advertisement of the Kings order for the present written in the Burmah language which according to Custom on the like occasions had been put in several of the most public places at Rangoon, also from an Armenian Padre who was present & heard the real Contents of the Letter which the Shawbunder dictated to Mr Tyson to be wrote the Governor; he therefore called upon these peoples to give their deposition upon oath which they accordingly did & from these depositions the intentions of the King to send this vessel as a present to the Governor very clearly appeared which determined him to demand the vessel and he was further induced to this upon receiving another letter from the Shawbunder at Rangoon

written in the Armenian Language wherein he acquainted him that he had heard of the Conduct of Smith & the other persons & the vessel was really a present from his Majesty who might be prompted to injure the English trading to Pegue should the News of his intentions being so shamefully frustrated, reach his ears

11. The Governor in Consequence of these Corroborating proofs employed an Attorney of the Mayors Court to acquaint Messrs Waple Banks &c parties concerned of the intelligence he had received & claim from them the delivery of the ship & Cargoe This after deliberation they all agreed to Comply with requesting only a reasonable Consideration for the presents they had made to the King, the stores they had furnished the vessel with, her sailing Charges, & other necessary expences, which Coja Gregory Avas, in his letter desired might be paid out of the amount of the Cargoe for which purpose the said Cargoe was laden on board

12 The whole of this affair will be fully entered on the face of our Consultations with the several letters and depositions annexed thereto which proves in a Clear light the intended fraud, but as they are very long & there are many references, We could not prepare them time enough to go by this ship we therefore hope you will excuse this unavoidable delay and beg leave to assure you they shall be transmitted in the Northingtons packet

13 Altho the ship was presented by the King to the Governor he does not lay any claim on behalf of himself thereto but refers the property to your decision agreeably to his Covenants Mean time we have for the Honor of the English nation in general & for the safety of the Lives and properties of its subjects trading to that Kingdom in particular determined to send Capt Justice a man who bears an extreme good character in the ship with some presents to the King of Pegue in order that he may enquire of his majesty what were his real intentions regarding her that if he did not mean it as a present to the Governor she may be restored & if he did to assure him that our nation retained a just sense of such marks of his Majesty's favor Capt Justice shall also be authorised to take possession in the Honble Company's name of the ground and Elephant granted by his Majesty & also to request his Majesty will deliver up to us the aforementioned Tyson and Dundass that they may, should their Conduct prove as dishonest as it now appears suffer the punishment due to their demerits

14 With regard to the ship we have directed her hull, rigging & stores to be valued by the master attendant with three others of the ablest Commanders of vessels now in the port & as soon as the amount is ascertained we shall order it to be brought on the Hon'ble

Company's general letter books under the Head of the ship Tetuenbien sent as a present by the King of Pegue to Lord Clive or the Governor of Bengal for the Time being under which head it shall remain till your pleasure is known The president deeming the demand made by Messrs. Waple and Banks &ca. for the presents sailing charges, and other expences of the Vessel to be very exorbitant it was agreed to submit the same to arbitration and the account was adjusted for little more than one half of their original demand—which we have directed to be advanced the President out of the Cash Amts. to 59,368-3-6, and we flatter ourselves her Cargoe which we have directed the Store Keeper of the works to take charge of for your use will reimburse you this sum.

You will observe in the Postscript amongst the few bills which we have drawn upon you by this ship that we have granted one to Peter Bois for five hundred pounds Sterling. We think it necessary to acquaint you that this man has served the Company faithfully in quality of Pilot at Luckypore for upwards of twenty years during which time he has rendered the Company in his station many essential services. We therefore think him entitled to this indulgence & doubt not but it will meet with your approbation.

The ballance remaining in your treasury this day is 40,42,158-7-9 and in your Cash Chest 96709-15-11 and the Register of Diamonds by this ship amounts to 69960.

Fort William  
1st Feby. 1768.

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your faithful & Obdt. Servts.

*Postscript*:—We have granted Certificates to the Capt. & Officers of the ship Earl of Elgin as follows.

Jno. Chrichton (1st Officer)	...	...	2886-0-0
Thos. Cook (Commander)	...	...	18000-0-0
George Tuff (Purser)	...	...	1731-9-9
James Rutherford (Surgeon)	...	...	1731-9-9
Daniel Clarke	...	...	2320-0-0
James Barwell 3d. Mate	...	...	1731-9-9

We have also granted on the usual terms the following setts of bills.

Peter Berman	{	C Rups.	{	To whom payable
	{	4444- 7-0	{	Messrs. Robert [Nath?]
Rt. [Skinner?]	{		{	[Hector?] & Thos. Raiks
account	{	22071-10-0	{	Jno. Henry Mertens
Jno. Henry Merttens	{		{	
George Hadley		1777-12-3		Henry Hadley.

## LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1768

*Policy of utilising private shipping in emergencies—the Pegu ship Tetunbein—alarming prospect of scarcity of silver—some other mode of supplying China recommended—supply of surplus salt petre to the French and the Dutch—a statement of accounts of Burdwan, Midnapur and Chuttagong—confusion in Patna accounts—failure of gold currency—failure of China supplies almost inevitable next year*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies

Hon ble Sirs,

1 By the Earl of Elgin who left the Pilot the 12th Inst—we had the Honor to address you the 1st inst—a Duplicate of which letter now goes by the Northington who having recd a full Cargoe to the amount of 9 49 100 C Rups—We now dispatch to you with advice of such Circumstances as have interven'd since the departure of the Europa, as also regarding some Circumstances that were not replied to in our letter P Norfolk under the established heads

2 In our letter by that ship we acquainted you with the arrival of the Hon ble Company's ship Royal Admiral, belonging to the presidency of Fort Marlbro who was dispatched by the Gentleman there to take in the Annual Consignments from Fort St George & this place for their use Having since received her necessary repairs she will shortly proceed with the articles indented for from that Presidency

3 By the Lord Holland we acquainted you of our having taken up Tonnage for transporting a detachment of Sepoys ordered by the Select Committee to proceed to the Coast On the return of the ship Savage one of the Transports the Commander made a demand of 2500 Rups as five days demurrage & 500 Rups P dry on the plea of being detained so long at Ingellee before the troops were embarked but which we have not thought proper to admit & he has acquiesced

4 Soon after the first embarkation for the Coast the Select Committee informed us of their intentions to send a Compleat Brigade there and that they should therefore be in want of Tonnage for the purpose, it was then

Consn 24th Decr  
Consn 15th Febr'y  
Consn 25th Janry

too late to destine any of the Hon'ble Company's ships for this service that were to be dispatched home from hence & as the Egmont Capt. Mears whom we had appointed for the Madrass ship could carry but a very inconsiderable part of the intended reinforcements, We were under the necessity of engaging a great deal of Tonnage among the Private Shipping, and the artillery stores had been for some time embarked when advices from the Coast determined the Gentlemen of the Select Committee to Change their resolution & send no more than a Company of Grenadiers & fifty of the train under the Command of Col: Peache. The Egmont accommodating these the private Tonnage became unnecessary and was discharged. The Owners however laid claim to the full freight but as it did not appear that the disappointment could prevent their prosecuting the voyages they at first designed excepting in the Case of a vessel called the four friends who was unavoidably detained much longer than any of the others & thereby deprived of the opportunity of a second trip to the Coast, perhaps in strict justice they were not entitled to any consideration however as an encouragement to Owners, on future occasions of the Like nature we judged it best policy to allow them half of the sum agreed for, and to the owners of the four friends, three fourths, whom we have already mentioned to be particularly Circumstanced. To this they have all acquiesced the Owners of the Thetis excepted—the Gentleman acting for Capt. Clough not thinking himself authorised to pass a receipt in full without particular directions from his constituent who had sailed for Bombay.

5. The whole amount of the bills which the Military paymaster general is directed to pay on this acct. amounts to Current Rups. 26969-11.  
 Consn. 1st Febr.

6. Our last letter represented to you a scene of villany that had come to our knowledge relating to the ship Tetuenbien that was intended by the king of Pegue as a present to Lord Clive or the Governor of Bengal for the Time being, Our proceedings on the occasion now wait upon you by this ship & we beg leave to refer to them for further particulars. The sum awarded by the arbitrators to be due to Messrs. Waple & Banks has been paid, After deducting the amount of Mr Bank's bond to the Company for Rs 39422-14 (which a sense of justice had induced the Board to make good to Mr Dolbin) as also of a bill which was drawn in favor of Mr Page Kebb & endorsed over to the Company and which Mr Banks at first refused to pay but agreed to it afterwards on receiving advice from Pegue amounting to Current Rupees 6340.

7. The Ship in Question having been long in the Sheriff's



Custody is much out of repair & in want of all kind of Stores  
 Consn 9th Feby The Master Attendant who, with three able  
 Commanders, has surveyed her, report the  
 value therefore to be no more than 40000 Rups and she is  
 now accordingly brought to account on your books under the  
 Head of Ship Tetuenbien sent as a present to Lord Clive or the  
 Governor of Bengal, for the Time being, as was agreed upon in  
 Consultation the 1st Feby, where it is to remain till your pleasure  
 is known whether you chuse to permit the Governor to accept of  
 this present intended for him by the King of Pegue or reserve the  
 same for yourselves

8 In our letter under the Established heads we acquainted  
 you with the Conduct of Capt John Williams Commander of the  
 Hector & with our sentiments thereupon, as also that we had  
 written to the Gentlemen at Fort St George requesting they would  
 call him to account for the same We have  
 Consn 22nd Feby since recd an answer from those gentlemen  
 wherein they enclose us a Copy of Capt Williams letter of  
 vindication to them, with an extract of the minute of their  
 Consultation in Consequence both of which they tell us they have  
 transmitted to you How far he has acquitted himself or our  
 remonstrance has been just we submit to your honor's determination

9 In compliance with a request from the Chaplain & Church  
 wardens, We have agreed to allow the Church Stock to remain at  
 Interest in your Cash until your pleasure shall be  
 Consn 21st Decr known, as we Consider it a matter of duty to see  
 that so public a fund for such charitable purposes, should be  
 secured in the best manner possible

10 The debt at Interest now amounts to Current Rupees  
 21,645<sup>2</sup>76 of which we have only allowed 10,176<sup>7</sup>9 3 9 to remain at  
 Interest on particular Indulgence from a regard to Circumstances  
 vizt

*Lord Clive's fund for Invalids & Military*

1 Bond . . . . .	331500		
1 Do . . . . .	232000		
1 Do . . . . .	16500		
1 Do . . . . .	348000		
	<hr/>		
	928000	0	0
Charity Stock . . . . .		32686	1 3
Mrs Frances Watts two Notes			
1st Note . . . . .	24840		
Do Do . . . . .	21600		
	<hr/>		
	46440	0	0

Russel Skinner acct. Mary Rowland	3330	0	0
Thos. Pearson & Isaac Sage acct.			
the estate of Ensign Seals . . .	3373	0	0
Russel Skinner acct. Mary Bodley	3850	2	6
	<hr/>		
	1017679	3	9

The remaining 1146848 is immediately to be paid off, otherwise it shall be wrote off to the head of deposits  
 Consn. 11th Janry. and receipts given in lieu of the bonds which are now recalled by public intimation.

11. The alarming prospect of a scarcity of Silver has lately been the frequent subject of addresses both from the Select Committee & this board. It every day becomes more serious & after this years supply to China part of which, even, we have been necessitated to send in Gold to Madrass. We shall be in the greatest distress for Silver to carry on our investment Pardon us  
 Consn. 9th Febr'y. therefore if we take this Liberty once more to recommend this to your Serious attention that some other mode of supplying China may be thought of. This year we have taken measures for sending thither 24 Laacks vizt.

In Gold to Madrass . . . . .	10,00000
In Silver to Do . . . . .	12,00000
In bills to Bombay, from whence to be forwarded in Silver . . . . .	2,00000
	<hr/>
	24,00000

12. Were the Gentlemen at Madrass even able to exchange this gold for Silver which we must doubt it is possible then pressing occasions may oblige them to detain part of it for their own use,  
 Consn. 9th Febr'y. We have therefore come to the resolution of sending Six more Laacks in Gold—An expedient that nothing but necessity could justify as we fear it will be attended with a Considerable loss.

13. We are sorry to acquaint you that the Cuddalore schooner whom we dispatched in Febr'y. 1767 in search of the Earl of Temple's people on a desolate Island in the China  
 Consn. 9th Febr'y. seas has returned without effecting the Service she was sent upon owing, as we are informed by the Supra Cargoes at Canton, to the misconduct & drunkenness of Mr. John Richmond the Commander. He has evaded the treatment his demerit so loudly calls for by quitting the vessel off point Palmiras & going aboard a Snow supposed to be bound to Madras.

We have however given the Gentlemen of that presidency a just report of him

14 We have the pleasure to learn from China that our remittances last year had all arrived safe excepting 3 27,710 Rupees sent upon the London which ship has lost her passage this Season but got safe into Malacca  
Consn 9th Febr'y

15 The Gentlemen at Canton also write us that after lading 8 ships this year they will have a ballance remaining Tales 1148691 and to Compleat the Cargoes of ten ships Consn 9th Febr'y which they expect the ensuing season they shall have occasion for Tales 400000 more without leaving anything in the hands of the resident Supra Cargoes for the year 1769 However with the remittances from hence this year & the imports they may expect We are not without hopes they will have at least a Stock in Hand of 22 Laacks for the year 1769 These hopes are founded on the following Calculate framed from the materials now before us which may be satisfactory as well as necessary for your Honors information vizt

Ballance remaining in the Supra Cargoes Hands	
this year Tale 11488961 which at 3 Rups P	
Tale is	Rups 34,46883
They have Consigned to them this year from hence	2400000
By the London they will receive	327710
Their imports if they amount to the same as they	
informed us those of last year did will yield them	699000
Total in their hands for the year 1768	6873593
Deduct the amount of Cargoes for ten ships which	
they Compute to be Tales 1541 207 which each	
3 Rups P Tale is	4623621
There will then remain in the Supra Cargoes	
hands for the purchases of their investment in	
the year 1769	Rs 22 49 972

16 In the midst of our difficulties for making the necessary remittances to China We recd an application from the Gentlemen at Bombay for a supply of five Laacks of Rups in Specie This must have either put us to the greatest distress, or that presidency must have been disappointed had we not luckily procured bills on Surat & Bombay for Seven Laacks two of wh we have desired may be forwarded to Canton & are included in the above estimate The Ballance of Trade with Bombay is so much in their favor bills are seldom or ever procurable here & We therefore have acquainted the Gentlemen there that we cannot depend on supplying them in future in this manner & that sending Specie is no longer in our power

17. It is with pleasure we learn from the Gentlemen at Madrass that it is unnecessary for us to prepare any treasure for Fort Marlbro presidency as they have found means  
 Consn. 24th Decr. to procure a sufficient quantity of Dollars to supply them from thence.

18. The office of Company's Steward which we acquainted you in the 27th Paragraph of the General letter Pr. Cruttendon had been  
 Consn. 22d. Febry. established for the relief of your servants & inhabitants in General being now no longer necessary from the quantity of Europe articles of all kinds which have lately been imported in the settlement We have abolished it & ordered such Stores as remained under his Charge to be sold by public outcry.

19. Restrictions on private trade is an expedient which we should ever wish to avoid & tenderly to be used when necessity drives us to it. To exclude the natives is impolitic from the Odium it must draw on us nor does it answer the end while we can not enforce a Compliance with the French and Dutch in whose hands every restriction must necessarily throw a proportional encrease of Private trade. On this principle it is not without Concern we have been  
 Consn. 9th Febry. obliged in Consequence of a representation from the Chief and Council at Dacca to desire they will point out such Assortments of the investment they find a difficulty in procuring from the number of purchasers in order that we may prohibit the Company's servants & others under the Company's protection from interfering & the president will recommend to the Nabob to put the same restriction in Force with respect to the people in his districts.

20. Thirty Bales of Raw silk that were shipped on board a Sloop to go down to the Earl of Elgin having recd. damage by the  
 Consn. 15th Febry. Vessels running aground We have ordered them to be sold by public outcry as they could never be properly re-dressed at Cossimbuzar for your use and there is a demand for that article in [Town?].

21. From a Calculate which the Export Warehouse Keeper delivered in of Salt Petre provided at Patna and Purnea this year we found that after answering the several demands of the different Presidencies there would still be a considerable Surplus remaining and as we are sensible of your being desirous that we should assist the Company's of other nations in every point that is not inconsistent  
 Consn. 11th Janry. with your interest we have granted a further supply to the Dutch of 1000 Maunds and to the French of 3000 Maunds so that the former have in all 33,000 Maunds and the latter 20,000 Maunds from us this year.

22 In the 28th paragraph of our letter P Norfolk we acquainted you that we were of opinion the Petre from Purnea was better than that from Patna & that we had sent 20 bags of each to the Committee of Powder Works to be proved in order to ascertain the quality of each Their report has been since delivered which confirms our opinion & we beg leave to refer you to it

23 We acquainted you in our letter under date the 14th September that we had applied for and were in hopes to have

Consn 22d Febr'y Mr Call down here in order with Capt Martin to inspect into the present state of the new works but the unsettled situation of affairs on the Coast has rendered it impossible for that gentleman to quit his station We have however paid the strictest attention to that important branch of your affairs and have the pleasure to acquaint you that the works have advanced very briskly since the members of the board have supervised them by weekly tours of duty & measure lately adopted and which we advised you of in our letter under date the 10th Decr The report of each Gentleman is regularly entered on the face of your proceedings and we beg leave to refer you to them for more particular information

24 Latterly indeed the want of Chunam has retarded the progress of works in hand Not only this but the bad quality of what is provided by the Country government has been frequently complained of by the Committee of works & it was thought that if this branch was in the hands of Private Contractors We should be better supplied however as no proposals were tendered but what we thought Extravagant The President at our request has strongly urged the Ministers to exert themselves who have engaged to provide annually from Sylhet 3 Laacks of Maunds at the rate of 5 Rups Pr Md and Notice is now published for receiving proposals for Contracting for the transporting of it to Calcutta By this means we hope a great saving will not only be in the expence of Carriage but in the deficiency by Losses and other accidents which the Committee of works inform us was not on average less than 25 P Cent

25 The pry of Coolies and artificers has insensibly been encreasing for some years nor have we been able to prevent it for want of the means of enforcing a Compliance Consn 15th Febr'y with the regulations we have formed from time to time This evil is now at such a heigh (sic) that it is become a piece of injustice to oblige these poor wretches to work for the Company at a lower rate than they are allowed by the inhabitants and therefore on a remonstrance from the Committee of works we have been induced to authorize them to enhance

the Pay of Coolies from 2-12 to 3 Rupees particularly as it is the same thing in fact whether the Company immediately pay this encrease or Contract with people who are obliged to make their Calculation according to that rate.

26. The Committee of works having also represented to us that the brick Contractors were sufferers from the Lowness of the terms of their Contract not being able from  
 Consn. 21st Decr. experience, to procure Materials and Workmen at the rate they engaged for & which they at first supposed they could. We, from a Conviction of their representation being just as well as to prevent the works from being retarded for want of bricks, agreed to allow them an addition of 12 annas P Thousand which we hope will enable them to keep us Constantly supplied with that article.

27. In our letter of the 14th Decr. we informed you of publication being made for Contracting with responsible persons for driving the piling near the New Fort intended  
 Consn. 21st Decr. to prevent the encroachments of the river, Various were the proposals delivered in to the Committee of works in Consequence but those of Monhur Muckerjee<sup>1</sup> an inhabitant of this place being by far the most reasonable & advantageous for the Company were accepted.

28. Thus we are now on a certainty that the driving and planking will not exceed 15 Ct. Rups. each pile and that for any engine furnished the Contractor at least 1 pile  
 Consn. 21st Decr. will be drove Pr. Day. The Committee of Works letter on this subject being entered on the Consultations We beg leave to refer you to it for further particulars.

29. As the progress of this tedious work depends on the number of Engines employed we have recommended to  
 Consn. 21st Decr. the Committee of Works to have as many made by Contract as they think requisite.

30. The Custom Master having represented to us that it would be of great assistance to him in the Collection of your Export & import duties if vessels were prevented from leaving the port till they had a Clearance from him, We have directed the Master Attendant on no account to let any ships or Vessels have pilots to Conduct them out until they produced the Custom Master's Certificate of their having paid the regular duties.

31. The Collector General having laid before us a clear & distinct statement of his office We shall now proceed to lay

the same before you & hope the account we give of that important branch of your affairs will prove satisfactory.

Consn 22d Febry

- 32 The Estimate established for the revenues of the Burdwan province at the beginning of the Bengal year by Mr Russel was
- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Sicca Rupees . . . . .  | 426147 15 11 |
| The amount Collected by the last report of the President is . . . . . | 3874481 4 0  |

33 Out of the sum Collected Sicca 33 54,915 15 has been transmitted to the Presidency the remainder is gone towards the defraying of the Ragas (*sic*) allowance the pay of his retained troops the arrears of pay due to troops dismissed by Mr Russel, The wages of his officers, & all other Charges of Collection & of the Factory

34 So small a ballance remaining on hands and the almost absolute Certainty of Collecting the remainder in the Course of the year at the same time that the utmost lenity has been observed gives us the highest satisfaction

35 In the proceedings of our separate Consultations last year regarding the Calcutta lands you have been informed that they were kept in our own hands We have the Pleasure to acquaint you that there has been Collected to this day for the Bengal year 1174

From the 24 Pergunnas . . . . .	10,73,197 10 9
From the town of Calcutta . . . . .	30,592 3 9
And from the 15 Dhees <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	31,736 7 9

In all Curr<sup>t</sup> Rups 11,35,526 6 3

And the Collector General has great hopes to Collect before the Close of the year 1174

From the 24 Pergunnas . . . . .	230000
From the Town of Calcutta . . . . .	8000
And from the Dhees . . . . .	14000

In all Curr<sup>t</sup> Rs 252000

which if effected will make the whole annual revenue of these districts amount to 13,87,526

36 Of the old ballances there has only been Collected Current Rups 1,03,405 6 6 which sum added to Current Rupees 73,250 9 brought to account by Mr Russel makes Rups 1,76,655 7 3 collected in this acct since the 1st May.

37 As soon as the present year expires we shall again maturely

consider in what method to dispose of the Calcutta lands as also determine on the mode of adjusting ye. old ballances many of which appear irrecoverable at present.

38. There was a statement made for the revenues of the province of Chittagong in March last by which the Company were to receive 4,80,000 Duss Massa Rs. in Consequence of a new measurement Commenced in Mr Verelst's time on the whole

Duss Muss . . . . .	Rups. 5,30,000 0 0
Of which has been received to the	
31st Janry. . . . .	<u>4,19,852 12 3</u>

As the year Concludes with this month what is not then recd. will remain as a ballance to be Collected next year, the revenues of this province cannot be encreased nor will the present mode of Collection admit of improvement.

39. From a set of Midnapore revenue books which go home in the Northington's packet you will be able to form a pretty just Idea of the revenues of that province to August inclusive.

40. The Tushkees<sup>3</sup> for the present Year commencing the 1st Sept. were settled including the Western Jungles lately reduced at Current Rups. . . . . 10,08575-12-0  
Of which has been Collected to the 31st Janry. . . . . 2,88788-14-3  
And there is great reason to believe there will not be any ballance remaining at the end of the year.

41. The Collector general in his address to us makes favorable mention of Mr Charlton Graham & Vansittart the Residents at Chittagong Burdwan & Midnapore for the great Care & Attention which they have shewn in the Collections under their management as also on Mr John Holme Junr. his deputy, We therefore beg leave to take this opportunity of recommending those Gentlemen to your notice.

42. We hope by the last ship to transmit you a general account exhibiting at one view a Compleat state of the Collection & disposal of all the revenues of your own lands under the direction of the Collector General till that period.

43. A set of books being judged necessary in that office there is one now preparing which will be ballanced by the 30th April next & ready to be transmitted to Europe on the ships of next season.

44. For a more Circumstantial detail of the transactions in the Collector General's department we beg leave to refer you to his letter as entered in the proceedings of this day.



45 In our General letter under date the 10th Decr. 1767 We acquainted you that We had altered our Intentions of building an Hospital on the other side of the river opposite to Surmons Gardens The Choice of a proper situation is now under our Consideration & we hope by the Admiral Pococke to write you something positive on this Subject

46 The Gentlemen at Madrass having acquainted us that Mr Thomas's bad state of health prevents him from availing himself of your appointment to the Chaplaincy of this settlement & the Revd Mr Parry our present Chaplain having long been in a declining way, We are to request you will send out two Clergyman to go through the duty so necessary for preserving Decorum in a Christian Colony

47 Mr John Davison one of the Head Surgeons at the Presidency having long suffered by an ill state of Health which prevented him from attending to the duties of his office has requested our permission to resign your Service which we have accordingly granted & recalled Mr Dannel Campbell from Cossimbuzar to succeed him

48 Col Smith has acquainted us that Lt Craig has been broke by a Court Martial for infamous & Scandalous behaviour The proceedings of his tryal will be transmitted to you home with the other proceedings of Courts Martial for the year

49 We acquainted you in our letter of the 10th Decr that Mr Grants Contract for feeding Bullocks & dieting the troops being nearly expired we had advertized that we should receive fresh proposals for the ensuing year Those of Mr Robert Hunter Junr being Considerably lower than any of the others that were sent in he has accordingly got the Contract from the first of April next to the first of April 1769 For the particulars his terms with some additional clauses which we have inserted in the Contract we beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of Council of which the date is specified in the Margin

50 In order to succeed in Case of Accidents, as Mr Bentley our Assay Master is the only person at present in the Settlement that is versed in the business of assaying we have appointed Mr James Trion & Mr John Hally Burton assistants under him with directions that they shall be immediately instructed in that Branch

51 The accountant has laid before us a letter acquainting us that the General books with the seperate Books of Interest & Outcry are ballanced to the end of April last & would be transmitted to

Europe by this ship—but observed that the many set of books wanting from Patna Factory & the great Confusion in their accounts (owing to the trouble both in 1756 & 63) which they have never been able to rectify rendered it impossible to adjust the books of that Factory without those materials & that therefore those commencing Novr. 1763 could be of little use unless we permitted him to make adjustments agreeable to them it being impossible to account for the great difference which arose before that time. This we did not chuse to allow of without your permission & we have ordered they may remain as they are until your pleasure is known and we request you will favor us with your instruction regarding them as soon as possible.

52. The General books of the Presidency are transmitted to you by this Conveyance ballanced to the 30th April 1767.

53. Mr Lambert's books as paymaster of the Garrison from July 1764 to Decr. 1765 are also sent in this packet & we beg leave to remark to you that they have been examined by the Committee of Accounts and met with their Approval.

54. We send a number in the packet the proceedings of a Court of Admiralty held for the Tryal of Jummant & Tom two Malay Marriners belonging to the Dolphin Sloop who murdered Charles Collington Master of the said Sloop for which crime they have both recd. Sentence of Death.

55. Our apprehensions have proved but too well founded with respect to Loss on the Gold Sent to the Coast. We have just recd. advices from the Gentlemen at Madrass of the safe arrival of the treasure sent them by the Sea Horse & Syren in Octr. but that its produce in Pags. is abt. 13 Rups. P Cent less than what the same sum in Rups. would have yielded.—When the Gold Coinage was first established it was stamped with an Additional value of 6 P Cent more than the Intrinsic worth as an encouragement for bringing to light the private hoards of that Metal every where dispersed throughout these provinces. Two P Cent more was likewise added to make up for their Charges Coinage so that there must be necessarily a loss of 8 P Cent on any of our Gold Mohurs that are sent out of Bengal supposing the price of Gold at par at each place. The remaining 5 P Cent is precarious owing probably to the price of Rups. at Madrass & the Charges of Coinage into Pags. However at any rate it is evidently a ruinous mode of remittance & yet as we have already had the Honor to represent to you we shall soon have no alternative & we wish the Gentlemen at Madrass may have it in their power to exchange it into Silver even with this loss which we apprehend too immaterial when put in a scale with the disappointment of your China Investment.

56. For a particular account of the Calculate made by the Gentlemen at Madrass of the Loss upon the Gold sent them from hence we beg leave to refer you to the Consultation of this date.

57. Here we must take occasion to mention that we find our views in establishing a Gold Currency greatly disappointed as with all our Influence it will not pass in any of the provinces so wedded are the Natives to the particular specie they have been accustomed to in vain therefore is it to expect to substitute it in the room of Silver and the more necessary it is to be Cautious of draining the Country of this last article before it is too late. These Considerations are of such importance that unless the Importations of bullion are greater than expected or we can negotiate by bills on Surat or Bombay We have no hopes of sending any supplies to China next year.

58. We hope to be able to dispatch the Admiral Pococke with a full lading & such advices as become worthy your notice by the 15th of next month.

59. Duplicates of the Indents sent home by last ships go numbers in this packet.

60. The ballance of the Treasury this day is Current Rupees 38,51,916 9 9 & in your Cash Chest Current Rupees 1,45,471-15-11 & the Register of diamonds amounts to C R 67,100.

Fort William  
22d. February 1768

We are  
Honorable Sirs  
Your faithful and Obedt.  
h'ble. Servants

P.S.:—1. We have granted the following Certificates by this ship vizt.

One set to Hussoramell for 1500 Current Rupees payable to the treasurer of the Magdalen Hospital for the time being.

One Do to Do for Current Rupees. 1500 payable to the treasurer of the foundling hospital for Do.

One set to Capt Thomas Riddell Commander of the Admiral Pococke account his outward bound trade pursuant to your Indulgence for C R 38672 6 9.

One set to William [Begoil?] 1st Mate of do account do for C Rs. 2886.

One set to Thos. Cairnes Surgeon of do account do for Current Rs. 1731-9 9

3. We have the pleasure to inform you that one of the two Schooners We directed to be built at Bandemalancka<sup>1</sup> for the Chittagong Service & of which we advised under date the 14 Sept. is arrived and we have wrote to Bombay for the immediate Supply of two others [.....] necessary service of the River.

4. We before advised you that the Royal Admiral was arrived here from Fort Mailbro, she has now taken in the Bulk of her Consignments for that presidency and will as soon as the tides permit proceed for Madrass in order to land five Laacks of Rs. for the use of the Coast as touching there, will occasion no material delay & save the expense of freight.

5. In Consequence of an application from Fort St. George to the Select Committee for additional supplies of Treasure we have resolved to remit thither the further sum of six laacks of Rups. and will forward them with the sums we before advised you to have been advanced by the undermentioned vessels which have been duly surveyed and reported by the Master Attendant.

On the Royal Admiral . . . . .	5 laacks
On the Ship Floyer . . . . .	3
On the Snow Elizabeth . . . . .	2
On the Snow Lively . . . . .	2
<hr/>	
Total	12

6. We are sorry we have been obliged to transmit so large a proportion of these Sums in Gold to a Manifest loss but the great scarcity of Silver, which we before advised you [of] has Constrained us.

7. You will now receive as a number in this packet a very particular return from the Military Store Keeper of all arms stores &c. with the Army at the Subordinates and in the General Magazines as our Consumption is encreasing daily, the Stores themselves liable to innumerable accidents from transportation or the Climate & our supplies precarious. We earnestly request that our present Indent for Stores may be at least compleated if not increased, and we flatter ourselves you will not think our solicitude on this head either untimely or misplaced. when you reflect how nearly it concerns the security of our possessions.

8. Capt. Sealy of the Northington having arraigned the attention of the Military Store Keeper on account of a deficiency in the Receipts of Stores from his ship the Military Store Keeper desired to explain the matter to the board and we now transmit you in this

packet his letter on the Subject & copy of his diary of Receipts for your satisfaction & his Vindication.

9. We also request your early compliance with our indents for 2, 3, & 4 Pounders & Survels<sup>2</sup> and a second for the necessary utensils of the Assay office, as the first is much wanted for the marine & we have been obliged to apply for a temporary supply of the latter from Madrass.

10. The assortment of Courcys<sup>3</sup> sent from the presidency of Fort St George on the Royal Admiral appearing from a Report of the Export Ware House Keeper to be ill Calculated for the Europe Markets we have directed them to be disposed of at public outcry.

11. We flatter ourselves that the great increase of your investment this year will be a Convincing proof to you of our unwearied attention to so principal a branch of your concerns. It exceeds that of last year by the amount of 8,68,580 Rups. and we hope it will not be found inferior in quality. It has been distributed in your vessels agreeably to the annexed list, exclusive of the usual Tonnage embarked on the Hector & Egmont viz.

On the Lord Holland . . . . .	C Rs.	934,800
do Norfolk . . . . .		957,000
do Europa . . . . .		936,200
do Earl of Elgin . . . . .		944,400
do Northington . . . . .		949,100
do Admiral Pococke . . . . .		11,73,400
Total		58,94,900

The Excess of the Pococke's Cargo above the rest was owing to the uncertainty when the other vessels were dispatched of the precise quantity of Goods which might arrive in Time for her and we have now shipped so much on her bottom as the season promises a safe tho' not a speedy passage.

12. We should do injustice to Mr Walter Wilkins your Resident at Luckypore if we did not represent to you the great Increase in that Investment which his assiduity has effected & we doubt not the letter to this Board from the Council at Chittagong under whose orders he acts will give you the same satisfaction it did us.

13. We have laden the ballance of Salt petre for Bombay amounting to 3000 bags on the Vansittart a Country ship, the Master Attendant having previously made a due report of her Condition.

14 We informed you in the 19th paragraph of our last letter that the Gentlemen of Dacca had represented to us the difficulty of procuring certain assortments of Cloth and our resolutions thereon, They have since pointed out the particulars which are chiefly of the finest articles & we have in Consequence taken such measures as we doubt not will in some measure prevent not only Europeans under the protection of the Company but also the Dutch French & Natives from interfering materially with your Investment in these articles For the particulars of these we beg leave to refer to our Consultations of this day where the whole matter stands recorded

15 The Collector General has given in the abstract accounts of the amount & issues of the revenues of the Honble Company's proper lands We have referred to those in the 42d Paragraph of our last letter and they go home as numbers in the packet

16 The same Gentlemen having represented the necessity of barracks at Burdwan for the reception of the troops employed in the Collections we have directed the same to be  
 Consn 3d March Completed with all expedition on an approved plan & estimate so that the whole expences shall not exceed 25000 Rs

17 In the 18th paragraph of our General letter under date the 14th Sept<sup>r</sup> we acquainted you of the misfortune your Factory at Patna had sustained by Fire—as the dispatch & regulations of your affairs there depend on proper Conveniences for the Transaction of the business and As the old ones have suffered beyond repair we have directed the Chief and Council there to fix on a proper place & Compleat the necessary buildings with all expedition at the most reasonable rate & in the most durable manner

18 As the Cantonments near Cossimbuzar proceed slowly from the scarcity of Workmen We have issued publication for such as are willing to Contract for the execution  
 Consn 14th March of the whole reserving the provision of materials to the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar as they will be able to furnish them at a much more moderate price than individuals could possibly should the Contract be accepted We hope to inform you by the next Season of their being far advanced

19 We have appointed Mr Joseph Cator to be an Alderman in the Mayors Court in the place of Mr Thomas French deceased

20 Mr Alexander Jephson & Philadelphia his wife acting for the estate of Mr Gallopine deceased having been arrested under a Warrant from the Mayors Court to prevent their quitting the Country without satisfying the Creditors, applied to us for redress

complaining of their being illegally confined. As Governor & Council we declined interfering with the proceedings of the Mayors Court and as a Court of appeals we refused to take a Cognizance of a Cause where no decree was passed. Upon this they took an opportunity of escaping from the Sheriffs Custody but in consequence of assistance granted by us to his Officers at his request they were apprehended and lodged in Confinement as debtors, They have now satisfied the Court and we have permitted them to return to Europe on the Pococke. The particulars of their applications and our answer are entered in the Face of our proceedings and to these we beg leave to refer you.

21. We have at the earnest petitions of several insolvent debtors relieved them from the prison of the Cutchery as they had delivered over the whole effects to their Creditors and had suffered a close Confinement for several years without a possibility of benefiting their Creditors or themselves.

22. The Collector General has represented to us that the old arrears of pay due to the Raza of Burdwan's troops have been nearly discharged but that the method hitherto pursued by paying only half their monthly allowance when due and giving assignments on the renters for the remainder is laying the foundation of a Continual burthen on the Riots as the Continuance of this must fall heavy on the proprietors of the lands. We have acquiesced in his proposal to make a Compromise of the debt so incurred and resolved at the Commencement of the ensuing year to establish their pay on a moderate and equitable footing and discharge it monthly in the same manner as the other disbursements.

23. We have also approved of the Rajah's application for some waste lands for the endowment &ca. of a pagoda as it will contribute much to agrandise him without affecting the Company's real interest.

24. The Master Attendant has delivered in a Report of all vessels sailed & arrived since the Mercury's dispatch and it is now transmitted to you as a number in the packet.

25. The ballance of the Treasury P Accounts of this day amounts to the sum of 31,11433-14-6 and the ballance of your Cash C R 290,697-3-2 and the register of diamonds P this ship amounts to Curr. Rups. 52400.

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs

Your most faithful and obedient  
humble Servants

Fort William  
the 14th March 1768.

*Postscript* —1 Since the Closing of this letter the military paymaster General has sent in Extracts from his Ledger with a letter from himself and another from his assistant Mr Keighly We have ordered them with the books to remain on the table for further Consideration, and transmit you the Extracts with Mr Floyer and Mr Keighly's letters as numbers in the packet

2 Mr Isaac Sage your late Resident at Benares acquainted the Board in April 1767 that Mr Bolts had refused payment for Certain quantities of the Honble Company's grain bought by him at Chunar amounting to Benares Siccas 8160-4-9 The Secretary being in Consequence ordered to make a demand of the same and being refused payment of more than C Rs 3175 7-9 on a pretended debt to Mr Bolts from the Company a suit was Commenced in the Mayors Court for the same It has been decided in our favor there and has likewise passed the Court of Appeals We now however are informed that Mr Bolts has appealed to the King and Council We therefore send you by the present packet all the papers relative to this Cause in both Instances by which means your Solicitor will be enabled to support your Claim in Europe

3 The deficiency of the Goods sent on board the Lord Anson to Bombay appearing on our proceedings and as you will perceive by the annexed list that the Majority of the Board are concerned in that vessel as owners we have deem'd it most equitable and impartial to leave the decision of this matter to your resolutions & therefore beg leave to refer you to the necessary papers entered on the face of the Consultation as marked in the Margin

Cons 31 Augt 1767  
19 Octr 16 Novr  
30th Novr

List of owners of the Lord Anson The Honble Harry Verelst Esqr Prest & Govr

Mr Sumner  
Genl Carnac  
Hugh Watts  
Claud Russel  
Willm Aldersey  
Thos Kelsall  
Charles Floyer

4 By private advice from the Officer conducting a Considerable Supply of Military Stores to Patna for the Army we learn that 1600 Stands of arms with other stores have been lost in the passage & we take the liberty of requesting that you will please to increase our Indent accordingly We have sent home a number in the packet the book of abstracts of all the expences under this presidency for the year



5. The Gentlemen of the Select Committee having just acquainted us that they have recd. earnest solicitations from the Gentlemen of Fort St George that the supplies sent them from hence may extend to twenty laacks in all for the service of the War. We have agreed to send them an additional supply of six laacks on such proper Conveyances as may offer.

Fort William  
the 26th March 1768.

We are  
Honorable Sirs  
Your very faithful and obedt.  
h'ble Servts.

## 16

## LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1768

*Causes of mistrust between Shah Alam and Shuja-ud-Doula—prospects of reconciliation—Madras, at peace with the Nizam, likely to defeat isolated Haidar Ali—supplies to be sent to Madras—great scarcity of silver likely to affect investment—points at dispute between Colonel Smith and the Select Committee referred to home authorities.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. The dispatch of the Admiral Pococke, the last of your Annual Shipping affords us an opportunity to advise you of the occurrences which have happened Since our last address under date the 29th Ulto: a duplicate whereof we have the honor to enclose.

2. Munerah ul Dowlahs Conduct since his return to Allahabad from the Presidency, has caused a discontent in the Mind of Sujah ul Dowlah—The Authority which he has assumed over the Royal House and particularly of the Vizierut, which the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah was invested with at our Request gives us too much reason to Conclude that he has filled the Royal Ear with ideas unfavourable to the Vizier as well as to the Solemn engagements we have entered into—When we consider the haughty disposition of a Person whose reputation and influence are very considerable in the Empire we cannot be surprized if he takes offence at being deprived of those honors he is entitled to and which with a lavish hand have been

## LETTER TO COURT

conferred upon another who in reality is a Servant of the Vizier's and placed by him near his Majesty's Person—He has on many occasions represented to Our President the uneasiness such conduct has given him reminded him of his Appointment to the dignity when the Treaty was concluded and signified his earnest desire, through our mediation to be invested with the Authority, thus withheld from him by the jealousy of the King and the Artifices of a favorite Servant to the Treaty Subsisting between us and Munera ul Dowlah had been told that his late conduct has incurred our displeasure, and that we expect if he regards Our Friendship he will make proper concessions to the Vizier for the disrespectful behaviour he has observed towards him

3 Sujah Dowlah in his Letters to His Majesty, Solicits to be admitted into the Royal Presence and to a share in his Councils and Administration but his Solicitations have not yet had the desired effect

4 By a Letter from Colonel Sir Robert Barker, we perceive with pleasure the prospect of a reconciliation between the Vizier and Munera ul Dowlah—He therein Acquaints us that the former is desirous of an interview at Faizabad and we have directed him to prevail on the latter to Accompany him thither we do not doubt but a Meeting will be effected and that the Subject of the Present disputes and jealousies will be terminated to the Satisfaction of the King and his Vizier

5 We can hardly expect that His Majesty will consent to Sujah Dowlahs Officiating near his Royal Person, Nor indeed is that a point insisted on but we think it but just and reasonable he should be consulted with and informed of all Material Transactions at Court, as the Seal of the Vizierut is in his Name and actually made use of as a Signet to the Royal Mandates

6 Should the King persist in his refusal to Admit Sujah Dowlah to his honors we shall Seriously remind him of the Solemn Engagements we have reciprocally entered into for the Security of his Majesty's Person the defence of Sujah Dowlahs Dominions and the peace and Tranquility of these Provinces we shall also point out to him the ill Consequences which may attend a rupture which he thus endeavours to effect with a Man so formidable as Sujah Dowlah Although we are determined to adhere inviolably to the Treaty we have made with his Majesty we must forget that we are equally bound in Friendship to Sujah Dowlah

7 By Letters from the Secret Department at Madras we have the Pleasure to be informed that they have concluded a Treaty with the





Haidan Ali

Subah, and that a deputation was sent to him to see it ratified—The President having in Private letters from thence received a Copy of the terms which have been mutually Assented to; We Conclude a Knowledge of them will Afford you Satisfaction And have the honor to transmit them to you a number in the Packet.

8. We beg leave to Congratulate you on an event which promises so favourable a prospect of reducing Hyder Ali; and of effectually Securing Your Possessions on the Coast—The Rebel thus deserted by the Subah; disturbed by the Mahrattas and threatened with the loss of his Possessions on the Malabar Coast; by a Considerable detachment of your forces which the Gentlemen at Bombay has destined for that Service; Must soon fall a Sacrifice to his Ambitious Projects and his ruin will we hope establish a lasting peace and Tranquility in the Carnatic, and fix your Possession on a Permanent and Solid Basis.

9. The Demands made on us from the Presidency at Madras for the Support of the War, amount to Twenty Laaks of Rupees—We have determined to Supply them with Twelve Laaks from your Treasury—and have desired them to appropriate three laaks for that Use, from the Sums we have remitted thither for the Service of your China Investment—They will by such Means be furnished with an immediate Supply of fifteen Laaks of Rupees to enable them to Prosecute the War against Hyder Ali: And we have Promised them a further Sum of five Laaks early in September, Should they then require it.

10. The great demands which have been made on this Presidency for Supplies of Money from every quarter, have reduced your Treasury to a very low State: and Alarm us for the Consequences, which must inevitably attend such a vast exportation from this Country—We are apprehensive that the very great Scarcity of Silver Must affect your Investment for the ensuing Season, as it is with the utmost difficulty we now procure sufficient for the immediate necessary advances for that Purpose.

11. We have so frequently represented to you the fatal consequences which we are threatened by the great exportation of Silver from hence, that we are Pursuaded you will leave no Measures unaffected to relieve us from our approaching distressful State.

12. It is with very great Concern we observe so great a part of Our Proceedings filled with disagreeable altercations between Colonel Smith and the Select Committee—We wish to Preserve that harmony and unanimity which has so long subsisted between the Members of this board as we are sensible such a Conduct alone can tend to the Prosperity of your Affairs and to preserve that degree of Subordi-

nation which is happily established among your Servants—In order therefore to remove every Cause for future discontent between us and the Colonel, we have very fully pointed out to him the Authority which we deem vested by Our Hon'ble Employers in us, and in Our President and We doubt not but such a Step will be productive of that harmony in future which we are desirous to effect.

13 A difference in opinion among us May easily arise, and can not be deemed a Crime in any Person; but we wish to Preserve it with in Proper limits, as we can never admit any Single Member of Our Board to act independently and even without previously consulting us on Matters of the greatest importance—As we entertain the Most favorable Sentiments of the Merits and Abilities of Colonel Smith we cheerfully consent to refer the Subject of our differences to your impartial determination

14 We are Sorry it is not in Our Power to transmit you by this Conveyance Translates of the Bengal Accounts of the Midnapore and Jellasore Collections which we before advised you had been sent us by Mr George Vansittart, as they are very Voluminous and require first to be translated into the Persian Language and from thence into English which time will not permit of—The Abstracts however now wait on you, Numbers in the Packet—Certified by our Secretary to be true Copies of the Original Papers Transmitted from Midnapore

15 We have the Pleasure to Transmit you the broken set of our proceedings since the last dispatch Mr Sykes Correspondence with the Zemindars, and other Officers of the Government—and other Papers as per Accompanying List of Packet and have the honor to Subscribe ourselves with great Respect

Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your faithful & Most Obedient  
Humble Servants,

Fort William  
24 March 1768

H Verelst/Charles Floyer/John Cartier/  
Charles Sykes/Richard Becher

## LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1768

*Affairs of the Company conducted with harmony—a compendious account of the different powers of Hindusthan—causes of the stability of the Company's system—British aim to maintain themselves as umpires of Hindusthan—total investment of the season—Dutch and French complaints frivolous—anxiety to secure some consideration for the Company's servants in lieu of salt trade—scarcity of silver will stop supply for China—an increase in the number of annual recruits for Bengal wanted—a survey of the provinces to be completed in September.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors &c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen,

1. The Several occurrences since I had the honor to address you by the Nottingham stand so fully recorded on the Proceedings of your Council & Committee that a Second address from me would appear unnecessary; were there not some Subjects which I would wish to point out to your more Particular attention and others which though of consequence do not fall under the Cognizance either of the Council or the Committee.

2. It is to their Proceedings I would refer you for Proofs of that harmony, with which your Affairs have been conducted, during my Government. Their example has been imitated in general by the Younger Servants in both Civil and Military Departments; who desirous of Convincing their employers that their past faults have been occasioned by the heat and extravagance of Youth apply themselves with diligence to the discharge of their Several functions nor can I with justice to these Gentlemen omit remarking to You that in General where Errors have arisen, they have proceeded more from their extreme Youth and inexperience than from any inclination to do wrong, as such I flatter myself they will be overlooked.

3. The only difference of opinion that has given rise to altercation you will see recorded on the Proceedings of the Committee in their Correspondence with Colonel Smith Commanding your Forces—As his ideas of the Conduct of Shujah Dowlah and of the Political Measures which have been pursued have constantly differed from ours, I judge it incumbent upon me for your information and for the justification of Our Conduct to lay before you a Compendious

Statement of the different Powers of Hindostan by whom Our own or the Public Tranquility can be essentially disturbed. A Statement which will fully evince the Security of the Hon'ble Companys Possessions here, and the Stability of a System which has been so happily adopted.

4. The first and great Cause of our Security is the general indigence of the Mogul Empire—The Invasion of Nadir Shah gave the first stroke to its Power and opulence, but it fell not so heavy as is commonly imagined — It gave a Mortal Wound it is true to the overgrown wealth and Arrogance of the Omrahs, but as the blow was not pursued its effect was not immediately felt beyond the Capital—The irruption of the Mahrattas ensued; their wide extended ravages laid desolate almost every thing on the South Side of the Ganges from near the Frontiers of Behar on the East to Serhind on the North and West; their undistinguishing repine (*sic*) plunged Cities and Countries into one Common ruin—And the Empire must have sunk under their oppressions or fallen a prey to their Ambition if the defeat at Panniput had not put a Period at once to their Power and devastations — The expeditions of the Shah Abdally succeeded which though Neither so extensive destructive or bloody as those of the Mahrattas still conduced greatly to exhaust a declining State; and though his Sphere of action was chiefly confined to the Punjab and confines of Delhi yet the vast Sums he levied Must have been Severely felt throughout a Country which Produces no Silver & but very little Gold—So Large a decrease of Specie Naturally produced a decay of Trade and a diminution of Cultivation; and though these Evils have in some Measure been Palliated in Our Provinces by the Annual imports of Bullion—yet in the most flourishing interior parts such as Benares Mirzapoor &c., the fact is Notorious and beyond dispute.

5. The Natural consequence of these Circumstances had been that the different Powers find their Finances narrow, and their Treasures unequal to the Maintenance of a respectable Army or the Prosecution of a War of any duration. Whenever therefore they are urged by ambition or Necessity to enter on an Expedition, they assemble New levies for the purpose with Most unreflecting Precipitancy they Risk every thing on one Campaign because they have Seldom resources for a Second, and come to an Engagement at all events because the Consequences of a defeat are less terrible than those which must ensue from the desertion or Sedition of an illpaid and disaffected Army—As their troops then are chiefly raw Men and aliens they are without attachment to their General or Confidence in each other a variety of independent Commanders destroys all Subordination and Authority and the Certainty of



beggary and Starving from the Common Accident of War throws a damp on the most Ardent Bravery.

6. These circumstances I apprehend Gentlemen have been very Principal Sources of our repeated Victories over these immense Asiatic Armies which have fled before a handfull of our Troops—And these will I trust either deter others in future or ensure Success against any who may be desperate enough to brave a force like ours, so strengthened by discipline, and rendered formidable by uninterrupted Successes.

7. A Second and no less Powerful reason for our resting perfectly easy as to our Situation is the discordancy of the Principles views and interests of the Neighbouring Powers; and which Must ever defeat any Project of accomplishing by an Association what the Wealth or Power of a Single one must prove unequal to. The Majority of the Present Princes of Hindustan have no Natural right to the Countries [they] possess; in the general wreck of the Monarchy every Man seized what fortune threw in his hands and they are therefore more Studious to Secure what they have already obtained than to grasp at New acquisitions. Hence the Principal disturbances which have lately happened in Hindoostan (Sujah Dowlah's invasion of Bengal excepted) have been accidental broils Raised by the Mahrattas, Seeks, and the Shah Abdally, whose views were rather extended to plunder than to Territorial Possession—Conscious that the maintenance of their usurped authority depends on their Preventing any of the Members from being too much depressed or too much elevated, they are become jealous and Suspicious of each other And are ready to throw in their weight against any one whom they see rising to high above the level For this reason they at first looked on Our Successes with an evil eye till our generosity to Sujah Dowlah our attention to our treaties, our public Faith, and above all our Moderation in not pushing our Victories begot a Confidence in us they had not in their Countrymen, and made them rather ambitious of our Friendship than jealous of our Power.

8. Thus circumstanced it will always be easy for a watchful and Active Administration on our Side to hold the general balance of Hindostan and crush every combination in the bud by spiriting up some neighbouring Power who may be either ill disposed or at least not favorable to the Confederates. A very little acquaintance with the disposition of the Natives will shew their Ardor for change where they have a prospect of Support and the Situation of Allahabad and the Station of a Brigade there renders the Plan Still More Practicable. Its Situation makes it in some measure the Key of the Surrounding Territories, and its vicinity to the Several Country's of Shujah Dowlah, the Rohillas, Jats, and Mahrattas enables us to

## LETTER TO COURT

penetrate their views with more certainty, And in Case of Necessity to enter any part with our Army in Ten or Fifteen days where we can have either an Ali [Ally?] to Support or any Enemy to Punish—It is for these reasons we have been obliged to retain a Brigade out of the Provinces—Our repeated Resolutions in Committee will I doubt not evince our earnest desire to fulfil your orders on this head, and the Necessity itself excuse us for Keeping it there as long as these reasons shall Subsist

9 Such Gentlemen seem to be the Causes of our Present Security of the Provinces here but they receive Additional Strength from the Particular Characters and Situations of the Several Potentates themselves

10 The King Shrow Alum Acknowledged Emperor of Hindoostan retains little of the Authority or dominions of his Ancestors, but what he has derived from us—The Provinces of Corah and Allahabad yield [them?] a revenue of about 27 Laaks P Annam at a Rackrent, this is almost exhausted to Support rather the Nume than the Substance of an Army, while the Bengal Tribute defrays the expences of his Court, And household And enables him to live in an Affluence if not with a Splendour he never before enjoyed His Abilities are rather below Mediocrity, and his Character seems rather Calculated for private life than a Throne—He is Religious as a Man, Affectionate as a Father, and humane as a Master, but as a Prince he is Weak, indolent, irresolute and easily led by the Councils of self interested Man I cannot however think We have anything to apprehend from these dispositions The remembrance of what he experienced when dependant on Shujah Dowla has created in him such a diffidence of Hindostan Connections as will effectually prevent him trusting himself to any of them again, and at the same time he probably entertains a distant hope that the same hand which has already raised him to his Present Independence May one day be extended to restore him to his Throne and right

11 The Nabob Sujah ul Dowla is Our Next Ally and if gratitude can be any tie on an Hindoostan heart We have every reason to consider him as connected with us by the most indissoluble bonds His Dominions except the Zemindary of Bulwan Sing lie on the North of the Ganges and extend to the Hills and though they are more thinly peopled than is common in this country have been so much improved by his late regulations in them as to produce annually 1 Crore and 25 Laaks 7 Rupees His increase of strength has kept pace with his increase of revenue he has near 11 Battalions of Sepoys of all sorts, a good body of horse and has made considerable Additions to his



Shuja-ud-Daulah



Artillery and Magazines. But as his whole Revenue can never Support a force which can be really formidable to us—So it will always be in our Power to direct the force he has to such Purposes as may best conduce to the interest of the Hon'ble Company and the General Peace—The Nabobs Education and Perhaps disposition have led him to be vain, aspiring, and impatient. He is active, but desultory, his judgement rather Acute than Sound, and his generalship and Policy more plausible than Solid. From pride or jealousy he is afraid to employ men of Abilities or rank in the several Departments of his Government he plans, directs, oversees, executes everything himself so that the Multiplicity of business and his daily increasing infirmities oblige him to leave his best designs imperfect and crude his Ambition it is true is always inciting him to form new Projects but his volatility induces him to be continually abandoning some and his impetuosity often rendering the remainder abortive In a Word from a Most careful review of his Character and Conduct he seems a much more proper instrument to accomplish the Company's main Point—the Maintaining themselves as the Umpires of Hindoostan than an Enemy who from his strength or Situation could give them any Material uneasiness or trouble.

12. The Rohillah Chiefs Succeed as Several of their Districts are immediately contiguous to the Dominions of his Majesty or Shujah ul Dowla. The Principal ones are  
 Rohillas Ahmed Khan Bungish Hafez Rahemet Khan, and Nigibe ul Dowlah—besides several of less importance as Dunde Khan Sirdar Khan &c. Though all these are in fact independant of each other, yet as being of one Tribe and deriving their Power from one stock, Ali Mahomed Khan it is generally Supposed they would unite in their Common defence; although from their dispositions and Situation it Seems hardly possible they could be brought to Act unanimously as Aggressors—Their Joint force is computed at about 80,000 effective Horse and Foot but these from their Native hardiness, their dexterity with the Sword, and skill in the use of War-[?Rockets] have generally been ranked in higher estimation than the ordinary Hindostan Troops and the People in general from some circumstances in their Political Constitution may be considered rather as a rising Power at least in National Strength.

13. The Territories of Ahmed Cawn Bungish immediately border on the Corah Country to the Westward they lie chiefly if not entirely between the Ganges and the Jumna, and  
 Ahmed Khan his Capital Furruckabad is situated on the  
 Bungish Ganges about 50 Coss beyond the Territories of Corah—His Revenues at the highest estimation amount to 35 or 40 Laaks of Rupees but the receipts do not probably exceed thirty, and his ordinary force may be about six or eight thousand horse and

Foot—He is now pretty far advanced in Years and unfit for Active life, both from an incurable lameness and the various infirmities which a long course of every Species of Debauchery has brought on. Yet with all his Vices he is a Man of Strong Parts, extensive experience—and deep Policy. He makes Several generous allowances to Men of Noble Families but decayed fortunes—And is a great encourager of Trade by using every endeavour to Protect the Merchant from the natural turbulency of his Subjects, on these Accounts he is much respected among his Tribe, and is generally considered as their leader in Case of an attack on their Community though the other two Principal Chiefs exceed him both in Revenue and Force—He has no Children to Succeed him, but has after the Rohilla Custom adopted one of his Slaves and given him the title of Daime Cawn.

14. The Country possessed by Hafez Rahamet Cawn joins to the Western limits of Shujah Dowlas dominions, and lies entirely on the North of the Ganges except Etawa and one or two other Straggling Pergunnahs which lie on the Jumna The extent of it towards the North and the West Cannot be accurately determined as our accounts are but imperfect and from Report but it produces a Revenue of at least 50 or 60 Laaks of Rupees and enables him to Maintain a standing Army of about 15 or 18000 Horse and Foot. His Character has little to distinguish it except that low cunning Intrigue and deceit so general in this Country; and his avarice makes him particularly cautious of risking or expending his treasures by engaging in disputes or War.

15. With all his Parsimony he is not very rich and his Son Anaet Alua Cawn a bold giddy Youth without Education or Parts draws all he can from him to Supply his own Extravagance. The Father is between forty and fifty years of Age, but healthy and Strong; and the Son about 23 or 24 at most.

16. The Possessions of Nidgibe ul Dowlah are bounded by Sirhind on the West, and beginning on the Jumna about 7 Coss east of Delhi they take a Sweep quite accross the Peninsula, and to the Northward of the Ganges so as to join Hafez Rahemet & Dunedy Cawn's Western Frontier—He has also some districts in the confines of Delhi to the South of the Jumna—The Revenue of such an Immense Tract of Country in one of the most fertile Parts of the Empire would be prodigious; but the greater Part of it having long been the Seat of War and of the depredations of the Mahrattas, Sikhs, and Abdally it is much impoverished & does not yield above 80 or ninety Laaks per Annum—Considerable however as this is his Treasury was never very full, he has been obliged for Years to keep up a Strong Army for the Protection of his Dominions and the Royal Family against the Continual incursions of the Sikhs &c.

and the large contribution he was obliged last year to pay the Shah Abdally has now probably drained it entirely—His Troops are generally 20,000 or More, and as he has been almost continually at War are veteran and brave. As a Man and a Prince he is Perhaps the only example in Hindostan of at once a great and good Character. He raised himself from the Command of 50 Horse to his Present grandure entirely by his superior valour, integrity and strength of genius; and has maintained himself in it with universal applause by a Spirited and well grounded System of Policy. Experience and abilities have supplied the Want of letters and Education and the Native Nobleness and Goodness of his heart have Amply made Amends for the defect of his birth and family—He is a strict lover of justice a most faithful Subject of his Emperor, and has long been the sole defence and support of the Royal Family at Delhi, his Wisdom and conduct are no where more Manifest than in his Transactions last year with the Shah Abdally. He found himself obliged to join him or expose his Country to an immediate invasion, and the (*sic*) therefore complied with the Necessity; but at the same time so protracted their Councils and threw so many Secret obstacles in the Way of their designs that after several Months the Shah Finding his Troops Mutinous for want of Pay or Plunder, himself harrassed by the Siks, the Heats begun, and the rains approaching, was obliged to return home with disgrace and rest contented with a Sum of Money infinitely inferior to what his expedition had promised another Man in such a Situation would probably have lost his life or liberty, but Nigibe ul Dowla by his Prudence at once Saved his Dominions and extricated himself. He is now about 60 years old and his Constitution much worn down by fatigue and Sickness, so that it is probable he will soon be succeeded by his eldest Son Zabete Cawn<sup>1</sup> aged near 35 who to all his Father Virtues joins the improvement of a liberal Education.

17. It would be unnecessary to trouble you with a detail of Dunedy Cawn, Sirdar Cawn, and the other inferior Chiefs. They can have no political Consequence; but as their dominions are Surrounded by those of the more powerful Sirdars—they must of necessity adopt whatever Plan of Action the others may think expedient to embrace.

18. The dominions of Jawahar Sing or the Jat Country extends in the Peninsula from Agra to within a few Coss of Delhi on the west and near to Etawah on the East—They are possessed likewise of a large tract to the South of the Jumna and besides a number of inferior Places of Strength have three Forts which are deemed almost impregnable—The Revenue of Jewaher Sing is on a Moderate Computation near 2 Crores of Rupees P Annum besides

the astonishing Sums his father Serajhe Malye<sup>2</sup> has amassed—But though he is so much Superior to his neighbour in Wealth, his Strength is not proportionate His People from their Cast and occupation are unaddicted to Arms and he has therefore on all occasions where he has been attacked himself or has attacked others been obliged to call in Foreign Auxiliaries These carry off a large proportion of his Excess of wealth and must if he has any thought render him Cautious of engaging much in War, least the same Arms he uses for the destruction of others may be ultimately turned against himself His character like the majority of the great of Hindostan, is that of a Man absorbed in pleasure and luxury, weak vainglorious and aspiring without experience or abilities He discovered some personal bravery in his late engagement with the Rajpoots but little prudence or Conduct in the Commencement of the War, or Method of Carrying it on His Standing Army is computed at about 12 000 Horse, besides a large body of foot who garrison his Forts, and Sumroo with his Rabble of Sepoys is the general he seems most to depend on

19 The Power with whom he is now at War is Madhu Sing, & his Ambition which led him to the invasion cost him a few months ago so signal a defeat, that he has been obliged to call in the Sikhs to his Assistance, his Adversary has done the same with the Mahrattas, and should their divisions permit them to answer the Summons in all probability after the ensuing rains the dispute may become obstinate and bloody whatever may be the event it can scarcely affect us and the most probable consequence seems to be a Confirmation of the general tranquility, as these four Principal Powers will be too much enfeebled by their mutual efforts Against each other to be speedily in a condition of giving the Public any disturbance

20 Maha Rajah Madhu Sing possesses a large district to about the South West of Delhi and his Revenue is estimated at about a Crore of Rupees, Few Princes of Hindostan can compare with him for the Antiquity of his Family or the fame of his Ancestors—His subjects are chiefly Rajpoots born to War they are the cultivators of his lands in peace, and the undaunted defenders of these lands when invaded, Proud of their Ancient glory they disdain to fly, and rush with intrepidity to certain death or victory In the late engagement with Jewaher Sing their horse rode up through the fire of above 90 pieces of Cannon and all the musquetry of the Sepoys till they came to Swords, and though thrice repulsed renewed the Attack, which met with the success their bravery deserved and might alone saved the remains of the Jats broken forces What renders this noble spirit still more laudable is that it is chiefly exerted in the defence of their families and master nor do I recollect an instance in the annals of



Hindostan where they were subdued themselves, or attempted the Conquest of others.

21. The Maha Rajah is more remarkable for his family than talents and though neither weak nor deficient yet his abilities can hardly entitle him to eminence or fame—His standing Army but inconsiderable because as I observed before, all his Subject are his soldiers; so that however amply he is provided for his own security his system is no ways calculated for Foreign Expeditions.

22. We have so long been Acquainted with the Mahrattas in the Deccan that it would be superfluous to make any observations on their situation to Gentlemen so well informed of it from the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay—And I should not have mentioned them at all except as possessors of some districts which lie on the south of the Jumna and contiguous to the demesnes of Our Royal Ally. Their neighbourhood however can never give us cause of Apprehension; as the smallness of the Force there leaves them rather open to invasions themselves than puts it in their Power to molest others; and the late advices from Bombay and Madras will clearly Point out how impracticable it must be for the Mahratta's under their Present intestine divisions and jealousies to send any formidable reinforcement to so remote possessions with hostile views.

23. I shall close this head with one general remark, that as the Mahrattas are notoriously the soldiers of hire, their Arms will probably be ever at our Devotion; because our Revenues can best enable us to come up to their price.

24. As the company of the Seiks commences as far West as Serhind their Distance would be a sufficient reason for omitting them in this detail did not their astonishing rise from the lowest Ebb of national weakness to a most respectable pitch of power make it necessary just to touch on them. In the Reign of Furruckseré their tribe was not computed at above 1000 persons; but their admission of Converts of all persuasions into their Religion has in so short an interval swelled their force to about 80,000 Men fit for Arms, and put them in possession of all that fertile Country between Sirhind and the River Atok. In a political view they seem rather a barrier for Hindostan against the Abdally or, any other Western Power, than a people aiming at Conquest and their Military conduct on the Shahs late Expedition gave full proof of their ability to repel if not ruin an invader.

25. This Gentlemen is the Statement of the Hindostan Powers which I have taken the liberty of submitting to your cognizance I believe it will be found exact though not minute and be sufficient to demonstrate that as every advantage of Revenue, Discipline, Force

and unanimity is on our side so the opposite disadvantages must prove fatal to any power who may attempt to be your Enemy—I must refer you to the Country correspondence for further particulars as well as for Confirmation of what I have here advanced: You will there find pleasing proofs of the anxious desire all the Powers I have enumerated express for our Alliance and Friendship and you will clearly perceive from thence how easy it must be for us to maintain our present character as umpires of Hindostan by counteracting any hostile designs against ourselves or our Allies by our Influence at a distance by our force when near—this has been the system I have ever strenuously recommended to the Committee, the Maxim I have invariably pursued myself—And this I trust will continue in future to be crowned with the desired success.

26. I could have wished the Gentlemen of the Coast had been more deeply impressed with this idea so that the Reinforcement Sent from Bengal instead of being scattered and dismembered might have struck the important blow we meditated against the Subah—In this case Hyderabad weak and defenceless must have fallen an easy prey before the Nizam—and have even received intelligence of the expedition, and as the Capture must have more universally enforced a Conviction of Our Power, so the generous restitution of it to a repenting Enemy must have highly exalted our moderation and disinterestedness.

27. You will observe from the Committees Proceedings that a jealousy has long subsisted between the Courts of His Majesty and Sujah Dowla. A seeming attention in us to one more than another will even awaken Apprehensions and however nice and delicate our conduct may be imaginary cause for uneasiness will always be found. His Majesty has lately through our interposition listened to an accommodation with the Nabob, and by a letter I have just received has confirmed his reconciliation by conferring a Dress on the Vizier.

28. The very large and valuable Cargoes laden on board the several ships of this season will I hope be a convincing proof of the great attention that has been paid to so important a part of your Affairs—The several Invoices amount to no less than 59,96,000 Rupees, and a balance of Goods remains in the Warehouses of 4,49,000 Rs. which makes the Total of your Investment this season 63,45,000 Rs. so considerable an increase at a time the other Nations are equally anxious with ourselves to extend their Trade could not be effected without many disagreeable complaints from both the French and Dutch Factories; though many of them upon examination proved frivolous & others without foundation. They must do us the justice to acknowledge that we have acted towards them with moderation and have often assisted them by our Influence with the

Country Government in points that were not detrimental to your interest.

29. Nor has this increase been unattended by complaints from your own Servants though I must confess with much more justice; and my duty to my employers, no less than humanity to the Sufferers calls upon me to lay before you a distinct representation of their Case—The incursions of the Mahrattas in the Time of the Nabob Aliverdy Cawn, the disputes we were forced into with his Successor Surajah Dowlah and the War we sustained against the Bloody Tyrant Cossim have kept these Provinces in a continual state of confusion, and introduced all the evils attendant upon War—Cultivation was neglected, Manufactures were destroyed and numbers of the weavers and winders were obliged to procure subsistence from a less precarious employment we have indeed enjoyed a few years of rest, and the Country every day feels more and more the benefits arising from it, Plenty has succeeded to famine, and security has induced the Natives to apply themselves again to labour and to commerce but the Manufactures are scarcely encreased the Aurungs are not so well peopled as they were twenty years before and yet your demands and those of other Nations are beyond what the Country is able to supply, was every Specie of Cloth to be purchased the amount of your Orders is above a Crore and Twenty Laaks—the Dutch wish to have Forty, the French are endeavouring to Procure Twenty two and the Danes and Portuguese Fifteen.

30. The French and Dutch Company by granting remittances only for such sums as have been paid into their Treasuries in Silver have been amply supplied with Money and they have as amply furnished their agents at the Aurangs with the proper species of Rupees, whilst we have been put to difficulties on that account—To obviate these in some measure and to comply with your orders to the utmost of our Power we have been obliged to curtail the private Trade of your servants at every Aurung to a degree almost of Annihilation.

31. Deprived of this principal branch of Commerce by which alone the Shipping Trade can be supported, interdicted trading in Salt whilst he beholds all the Foreign Nations as well as Natives enjoying the benefit of it under Feigned Names and various pretences too intricate to be unfolded and too deeply laid to be checked, or brought to public view, prohibited all other means of accumulating Money, with small salaries and no emoluments, from whence is a servant to raise a fortune in Bengal—I declare I have as great an opinion of your present set of servants in general as of any body of Men; but with such a prospect before them having the Government of a rich and populous Kingdom, and the Amount

of Millions passing through their hands, they must be more than Men to stand the fiery trial—Were they to resist the temptation I greatly fear that Zeal and Vigour so necessary for the prosperous management of your affairs would be wanting but should it be too powerful I tremble for the Consequences

32 This I am sensible is not the state to which you would wish to see your service reduced but it really is the state at present You have been pleased to promise your servants some consideration in lieu of the Salt, and they wait with anxiety your resolutions —

33 I have thus Gentlemen Performed what my duty required at my hands—If I have any where expressed myself with too much warmth the Nature of the subject will I hope sufficiently plead my excuse

34 It was this heavy restriction upon private Trade that induced some of the Gentlemen clandestinely to extend their Commerce into the Territories of Our Ally Shuja Dowla but the ill conduct of some of the Gomastahs having occasioned complaints from the Nabob, I immediately issued orders for their recall and have taken effectual measures for preventing the Trade in future

35 The increasing scarcity of Silver has been so fully set forth in the proceedings of the Council and Committee that nothing but the urgent Necessity of the Settlement could tempt me to remind you of it in this Letter Gold is not current at the Aurungs and we shall with difficulty be enabled to raise a sufficient quantity of Silver for the Provision of the ensuing Years investment—A further remittance to China it is entirely out of our Power to supply

36 The Extent of your Territorial possessions in Bengal requires a considerable body both of Europeans and Sepoys to be maintained for its defence the latter Corps is constantly kept completed but the number of the former [is] far short of the fixed Establishment—The Recruits of the last season were not even sufficient to supply the Casualties, as the keeping the Brigades and the Artillery complete is of the highest importance to the safety of these Provinces I must entreat of you Gentlemen to encrease the Number of the Annual Recruits for Bengal

37 The indent for Cannon and small Arms I likewise hope will be fully complied with—Of the former many prove useless on the very first trial, and the latter are liable to so many accidents from the dangerous navigation of the River in transporting them to the Army from the ignorance the carelessness or the desertion of the Sepoys, that an ample reserve in Our Magazines is absolutely necessary—No less than 1600 of the last supply were lost in the River a few days since which I fear we shall never recover

38. An Agate quarry has lately been discovered among the hills near Monghyr as the stone appeared to be of a proper quality for Gun Flint I ordered a quantity to be made, and have directed 5000 to be sent to the Second Brigade, and the like quantity for the remainder of the 1st Brigades and the Troops in Garrison—If upon trial they answer My expectations—I shall recommend to the Board the providing Two Millions of them to be kept in store for the Supply of any future Emergency They are cheaper than the flints from Europe the expense being only 4 Rupees for 1000; but least they should not prove serviceable or the vein should be insufficient for a constant supply I would beg leave to recommend that the Indent for this Season be Complied with—I have sent by Captain Riddle 100 taken promiscuously out of the heap for Your estimation and opinion.

39. The Committee proceedings will inform you that we have been treating with the Mahrattas for their Cession of the Country of Cuttack this Negotiation has been greatly protracted but I am in hopes of seeing it very soon Concluded. It is customary with these People to spin our Treaties to an immoderate length; avaricious in the highest degree they endeavour by every artifice to encrease their exorbitant demands and faithless themselves they are Suspicious of the faith of others—The advantage of such an accession of Territory are too obvious to require being particularly pointed out; the Mutual assistance the Presidencies can yield each other unsubjected to the precariousness of the Season and accidents so liable to Shipping is not one of the least we shall derive from completing the chain of your possessions from the Banks of the Caramnassa to the extremity of the Coast of Choromandel.

40. I have the honor to enclose you a general Statement of your receipts and disbursements of Cash during the Year Sixty Seven it is Calculated more for Speculation than to be depended upon for its exactness, though I am certain You will find it deviating slightly from the truth should any error appear.

41. To confirm what I have before urged of the necessity of your increasing the number of Recruits destined for the Presidency I do myself the honor to enclose a state of the European forces drawn up to the first of this month and compared with one made the 30th of last June from which you will observe that 390 were sick and 670 were wanting to complete the establishment before the Arrival of the Recruits of last Season, and though none of them were lost either by death or desertion during their stay at Calcutta we have at this time 366 Sick and 305 are still wanting to complete an amazing deficiency when it is considered that the Sickly Season is not yet begun.

42. A number of Gentlemen are employed on a Survey of these provinces, the boundaries are almost finished and they are now taking the sections of the several Countries In September next. I hope to have the pleasure of sending you a complete and particular plan of all your possessions in this part of India. In tracing and examining such an immense Tract of Country the greatest part of which affords not the least Conveniency to a European the Expence must necessarily be great; but the benefit of such an undertaking will be an ample compensation for the Charges that are attendant upon it. You will be pleased to receive a general return of your Forces both Europeans and Sepoys as I have not lately received any return of the detachment sent to the Coast I have been obliged to omit it.

43. I should be unjust to the merits of Mr. Walter Wilkins your resident at Luckypoor were I to forbear remarking to you that the very large encrease of that part of your Investment has been entirely owing to his unwearied assiduity and attention.

44. I flatter myself you have 'ere now made choice of a Gentleman to succeed me in the Government: the weakness of my Constitution renders such a measure absolutely necessary if it is not already effected—My gratitude to the Company would not allow me to hesitate a moment in complying with their orders should they judge it expedient for me to make a longer stay in India; but a series of Nineteen Years dedicated to their service has so entirely destroyed my Constitution, that another years residence in Bengal would in all probability prove fatal. Should my ill state of health oblige me to vacate the Chair before I am honored with your Answer—I shall quit it with less reluctance as the Gentleman next to me in the service Mr. Cartier, bears so worthy and unexceptionable a character; and I take the liberty of recommending him to your particular notice.

45. Allow me Gentlemen to conclude with a private request for myself And I the less fear a denial when I reflect that it is the first I have ever taken the liberty to make—That you will indulge me with the remittance of such part of my fortune as may be remaining in India at my departure through your Cash.

I have the honor to subscribe myself with the most respectful attachment and Gratitude.

Fort William  
28th March 1768.

Gentlemen  
Your most devoted &  
faithful humble Servant  
H. Verelst.

## LETTER DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 1768

*The Court's instructions re: Select Committee and Council acknowledged—Resident at Durbar instructed as advised—Company's servants and other Europeans not to trade beyond the province—suspicious of Shuja-ud-Daulah—a deputation for a candid investigation—The third brigade not to be removed from Allahabad—raising a body of horse necessary—political out look—apprehension of a surprise French attack—depleted state of the treasury—foreign nations no longer importing specie.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We had the honor to Advise you in Our Address P Admiral Pococke, under date the 24th March last of all Material occurrences in your Affairs under our direction and to transmit to you Our Proceedings down to that period of time—A duplicate of those advices now waits on you a Numer in this packet.

2. We have been favored with your Commands bearing dates the 20th November 1767, the 12th January and 16th March 1768, by the Several Ships of this Season to which you may be assured all due obedience shall be paid unless a deviation from any part of them may be deemed most conducive to Your Interest—Sensible of the important trust reposed in your Select Committee their warmest endeavors have been exerted to uphold the Influence you have happily acquired, and to secure upon the most permanent foundation your great and valuable possessions in these Provinces—We are happy to perceive the success with which their Labors have been crowned has rendered it unnecessary for you to continue to Us those superintending Powers, with which they have heretofore been vested—The concluding of Treaties, the disbursements of Money and the Supreme Power over your Military, will therefore in future be conducted by your President, and Council and we shall continue in the management of your Political Concerns, and the Collection of the Dewannee Revenues, within the limitation prescribed in your late Orders.

3. The President in Council having referred to us the 55, 56 & 58 Paragraphs of your Letter to them of the 20th November 1767, we

forwarded the same to the Resident at the Durbar with directions to transmit to Us all his Accounts of the Revenues adjusted to the 31st July in Time if possible to be laid before that Board and sent you by the Valentine now under dispatch But their not being yet arrived prevents their being sent to you by this opportunity

4 The 23rd 26th 30th and 32nd Paragraphs of your Commands to us dated 16th March have likewise been sent to Mr Sykes—We have directed him to represent to the Ministers the impropriety of their holding Lands under the Country Government and that it is expected they will discontinue that practice in future—We directed him also to draw out an Account of the Charges Collections in the Dacca Province and an Account of all disbursements whatsoever which have Caused Deductions from the Annual Amount of its Revenues which when transmitted to Us shall be forwarded for your particular information

5 We have recommended him to obtain information from the Ministers how far the introduction of Our Laws of Inheritance which you have been pleased to point out to us may affect the claims of the Country Government over the natural rights of the Native

6 The Poonah was held at Moorshedabad with the usual forms and Solemnity the 14th May last—The President being unable to assist thereat in Person by reason of his ill state of health Mr Cartier Proceeded up to the City on that occasion and officiated in his stead—The Estimate then formed of the Revenues to be collected in the present year is entered upon the face of our Proceedings which we have the honor to transmit by this conveyance and we beg leave to refer to the Letters addressed jointly from Messrs Cartier and Sykes for a particular explanation of the manner in which the Statement is formed

7 Those Gentlemen deferred the holding of the Poonah as long as it could prudently be done without endangering the Current Collections in order to bring in as much as possible the outstanding balances of last Year They are as small as we could reasonably expect and have arisen chiefly from the remarkable Inundations of last Season and other Casualties unavoidable in the Collection of Revenues in a Country of such vast Extent you will be pleased to observe that among the Balances incurred is one Lack of Rupees occasioned by a deficiency in the Revenues of Dingagepore notwithstanding Mr Sykes assures us he has paid the greatest attention to the collections of that Province from a Suspicion of many fraudulent practices having been committed there by the Zemindars and other officers of the Government and the very oppressive measures they have pursued towards the Farmers of those Lands—Every possible endeavour has been used in obtaining the balance from the late



[collection?] of that Province. He at first seemed willing to pay that sum but at length absolutely refused unless he was reinstated in the management of Rungepore and Dinapore, [Dinajpur?] and permitted to take those Countries on his own terms. So insolent a refusal, and a proposal injurious to your Interest, induced the Ministers to dismiss him from his Employments, and we are exerting the utmost endeavours to recover the Balance due.

8. Mr. Rooke is for the present at Dinagepoor in order to convey such Informations to the Resident at the Durbar as he may obtain, of the malpractices pursued by the Officers entrusted with the management of the Collections in that Province, but we have strictly forbid that he interferes in any degree whatsoever with the Country Government; and we have directed that he remain there no longer than is absolutely necessary for that Service.

9. The accounts of Mirza Cossim the late Fouzdar of Houghley, are still under the examination of the Ministers—Frauds have already been discovered therein to the Amount of Rupees 1,20,000—of which Sum Rupees 1,00,000 have been received into the Treasury at Moorshedabad.

10. Mr. Sykes has represented to us the inconvenience he must labour under, in transacting the business of the Durbar, from the Council's having appropriated Midnapoor House to the use of the Chief at Cossimbuzar which place he has for some time past made his principal Residence by reasons of the unhealthy situation of Mootygil—We could not with the least degree of delicacy to that Board take this matter into Consideration; and he was therefore told it should be referred to the decision of you our Hon'ble Employers.—

11. The Bahar Collections have this Year been nearly adequate to the Preceding—Mr. Rumbold advises us that the Revenues being almost Collected he [proposes] making a Tour through that Province accompanied by Rajah Sitabroy and to settle the Bundabeish for the ensuing Year from which Tour, We flatter ourselves that we shall acquire a More exact Knowledge of the state of that Province.

12. The Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah having complained in his letter to the President of the misconduct of Gomastahs trading in his Dominions under the sanction of the English name we did not hesitate to give him an easy proof of our regard to his representations; & accordingly came to the Resolution of prohibiting all your Servants as well as other Europeans residing under your protection from carrying on any trade whatsoever directly or indirectly beyond the provinces, after a Certain time limited for the

adjustt. of their Outstanding concerns under pain of confiscation of his Goods and dismissal from your service, if a covenanted servant; and if a Free Merchant or other European the immediate loss of your Protection such orders have been issued and such Precautions taken in the posting of officers at the different stations on the Rivers as has enforced the Regulation in the most effectual manner.

13. Having on all occasions most religiously fulfilled the Articles of Our Treaty with the Vizier We Entertained hopes that our Attachment to his interest would dispel every Suspicion which his jealousy of our superior influence might possibly have created in his Breast. But so far from having produced that happy effect We have too much reason to believe that his unbounded ambition will make him regard us rather as his rivals for power than his Steady friends and that his attachment to us proceeds from his inability to deprive us of that reputation we have Established in an Empire, in which he and his Family have borne the most exalted Stations in the Royal House.

14. The Nabob continues extremely solicitous to be invested with the full authority of Vizier and to enter upon the functions of that Office The King is equally averse to the Nabob's Request and positive in refusing him any other Power than the Nominal Dignity. Our Mediation has been solicited by them both: and our Representations have not been wanting But the imperious conduct of the Nabob towards his Royal Master, and the enmity subsisting between them will we apprehend prove an insuperable bar to their reconciliation.

15. We Cannot but with Concern observe that our sentiments with regard to Sujah ul Dowlah's Conduct greatly differ from those we had the honor to transmit to you by the Ships of last Season—Events since that period will we doubt not justify the change, and make it a duty incumbent on us, as we regard the Welfare of the Company to adopt every prudent measure for evading the blow—It is not impossible he may be meditating against their valuable possessions in these provinces—When We considered the very rapid progress has lately made in his levies of Troops his extraordinary vigilance in the discipline of his Army—The Reports which we have received of his inviting Auxiliaries into his service at a time when perfect tranquility seemed to reign throughout the Empire the connections he is forming with different powers—The establishing a Foundry which already supplied him with a great quantity of Cannon for Field Service and his Amazing improvement in the making of small arms, which are by no means inferior in quality to the very best exported to India; All these were circumstances which

naturally demanded Our most serious attention and compelled us to resolve upon losing as little time as possible at some degree of certainty with regard to his future designs.

16. As previous steps towards the Security of your Brigade at Allahabad We immediately came to a resolution of establishing a Magazine of Provisions in the Fort, for their maintenance, and on sending up a supply of Ten Laaks of Rupees for their Subsistence, as soon as the state of the Moorshedabad or Patna Treasury should enable us to appropriate so large a sum for that purpose.

17. Sensible of the vast importance of the Fort of Chunar to Sujah ul Dowlah, in case he should come to an open rupture with us; we have directed Colonel Barker to reinforce the Garrison we have at present therein, should we have reason to judge such step necessary from the future operations of the Nabob. It is a matter that requires the utmost delicacy and as such we have recommended it to the Colonel who we are persuaded will take every precaution in effecting it should it become necessary.

18. The next and most important measure adopted was the Appointment of a deputation to proceed to Allahabad, to represent to Sujah ul Dowlah in Person the Suspicions which his late Conduct has created & to endeavour by a candid investigation of facts, and friendly argument to convince him of the inviolable faith with which we have on our parts adhered to the Treaty; and require his reasons for so considerable an Augmentation of his Force, at a time when even the most remote danger to his possessions was not to be apprehended, and that we have taken this method of communicating to him our Sentiments which We hope will convince him of the sincerity of Our attachment, and our earnest desire of continuing the Friendship which has subsisted since the Treaty But if contrary to our most earnest wishes he should be deaf to every remonstrance of this nature the deputation is then empowered to request His Majesty will order the immediate reduction of his Force as a step essentially necessary for his safety and our own; and to acquaint the Vizier that we are determined to enforce an obedience to the Orders of his Royal Master, since we hold it absolutely and indispensably necessary to prevent any one neighbouring power acquiring such degree of Strength or Power, as may enable him to disturb the general tranquility of the Empire. This measure will not however be pursued, until every persuasive argument is become of no effect.

19. The more effectually to succeed in Our Negotiation, when the rainy season shall be passed we intend to direct the 2nd. Brigade to march to the Caramnassa We are of opinion that when the Nabob perceives our fixed determination to bring this matter to an

issue it will make him reflect seriously on the impropriety not to say folly of his Own Conduct

20 The President most readily tendered his Services on this occasion notwithstanding his ill state of health for some time past, but the Select Committee not deeming it necessary to put him to the inconvenience of undertaking so long a journey, appointed Mr Cartier and Colonel Smith two of the Members of the deputation, and applied to the Council for the Nomination of Mr Russell as a third, for there being only three remaining members of the Select Committee (the number you have directed constantly to be on the spot to transact the business of this Department) another member from our Board could not with propriety be sent—Those three Gentlemen will accordingly proceed up the Country as soon as the Valentines dispatches shall be closed—The instructions with which they are furnished will plainly evince our earnest desire of preserving the Peace inviolate, and to accommodate matters with the Vizier on the most friendly Terms and we are persuaded that the Gentlemen to whom we entrust this important Negotiation will exert their Zealous endeavours to accomplish the wishes of your Select Committee and to fix the General tranquility on a permanent basis

21 Be assured Gentlemen that it is with the utmost reluctance that we find ourselves reduced to the necessity of making hostile preparations against any Power of Hindostan, but more particularly against the Prince whose attachment and fidelity to our cause we have attempted to engage by every Friendly Office in our power The security of your territorial possessions calls aloud for these Measures and we should be wanting in duty and fidelity to the valuable trust reposed in us if we remained inattentive while so respectable Power is daily encreasing our resolutions upon this important point have not been the work of an hour only, they have resulted from repeated and mature deliberations—To them therefore as they stand recorded upon the face of our proceedings we beg leave to refer you and we hope the measures deemed necessary to be pursued will have the honour of your approbation

22 From the above mentioned circumstances you will no doubt the impracticability of our removing the third Brigade from its Station at Allahabad which has continued there at the particular requisition of the King and Sujah ul Dowlah—We must on this occasion express our great astonishment at the positive orders you have lately sent us for withdrawing that Brigade, under pain of being rendered responsible for all the consequences which may ensue from its continuance such an absolute restriction without permitting us on the spot, to judge how far from time and circumstances such a measure may be pursued must, we apprehend, on some future

occasion be productive of the utmost evil consequences to your affairs—In the present case for instance did we not regard your interests above every other consideration you might possibly by an immediate execution of your orders, be reduced in the space of a few Weeks from the most flourishing situation to the lowest distress—Sujah Dowlah would then have the King at his Mercy & might obtain that right to your possessions by which you now hold them; he would then have no curb on his Ambition: and being thus left at large to pursue his hostile intentions, might with ease enter these provinces with a numerous body of Cavalry; harrass your Troops without putting it into their Power to bring him to an action, and destroy those very Countries from which you receive such immense Revenues; but as our Army is now Stationed the 3rd Brigade is a check on all our Neighbours, and more particularly on the Vizier.

23. We are also concerned to find that Our Resolution on the Approach of Abdallah to raise a body of Mogul Horse, does not meet with your approbation—We came to this resolution in consequence of Colonel Smith's representations of the absolute necessity of entertaining a Corps of Cavalry should there be a Prospect of real Service—We judged it indispensably necessary to give the Colonel this Power at the same time we strongly recommended to him not to make levies unless the Situation of your Affairs should absolutely require it you will find that our recommendation had all the effect we could desire, Since on the Rumour of the Abdallas return the Service did not require that you should incur the lease (*sic*) unnecessary expense nor was a single horseman entertained.

24. But we are obliged to enlarge upon this subject from the present situation of your Affairs It never will be our intention in any case whatsoever to raise a body of horse so numerous as to oppose the thousands of Cavalry that may be brought Against Us but we cannot conceive it would be warrantable to risk not only the persons of your Commander in Chief and Principal Officers of your Army but perhaps such convoys upon the fate of which the success of our operations might solely depend to the very precarious fidelity of the Troops of another power—You have only Three hundred horse in your pay a number by no means sufficient for the ordinary guards and Patrols of the Camp without Cavalry it would be impossible for your Officers to conduct their operations; since they could not at any time reconnoitre the enemys situation without marching a large Corps of Infantry for a covering party, and making this a common practice would harrass your Army beyond Measure—The securing of convoys is a point of too much importance to trust to any other troops than those in your own pay—In short it seems the opinion of all the Principal Officers of the Army that in time of Service a small body of Cavalry is indispensably necessary—However

you may rest perfectly assured that in this as well as on all other your orders we shall never depart from the System you have prescribed, unless the Service should absolutely require it. and then we shall observe the greatest œconomy—

25 Colonel Barker informs us that the Abdallah is making preparations for marching again towards Hindostan that he left Caboul in May last and joined his Army which had taken the field and that a Part of it reinforced by the Neighbouring Powers is advancing towards Cashmere Mooltan & Lahore—But we do not find this intelligence confirmed by later advices—

26 Jewhar Sing, the Chief of the Jauts, was assassinated in July last by an unknown hand, we do not hear that his death has caused any great commotions, his brother Row Rutten Sing having succeeded him without opposition and he has wrote to Our President expressing his hopes of the continuance of that Friendship towards him as subsisted with his predecessor—The Nabob Sujah ul Dowla is preparing to March his Army to the Assistance of Achmet Cawn Bungush, one of the Rohilla Chiefs, as he intimates at his particular requisition

27 By Letters from the Secret Department at Fort St George We observe they are pursuing with vigor their operations against Hyder Ali—The main body of their Army joined by a detachment of Colonel Campbell are encamped within 25 Miles of Bangalore, having subdued the Several Forts between their Army and their own Garrison—Hyder Ali is also encamped near that Place with his whole force consisting of Eleven thousand Cavalry and Infantry determined it seems to defend it to the last extremity—The seige we doubt not is 'ere now commenced and as the extirpation of Hyder Ali will greatly depend on the success of your Arms in that enterprise we shall remain in a State of anxiety waiting for the issue

28 The great number of Cannon and Stores they have acquainted us is necessary to enable them to carry on the seige has induced us to resolve on sending them a supply of Shot by the first Conveyance which offers for the Coast and as they still continue to represent to us their urgent occasions for Money we shall also embrace the same opportunity to send them as ample a supply as the state of our Treasury will admit of

29 The detachment under Colonel Peach in the Deccan has been employed against Narriandoo<sup>1</sup> and the other refractory Zemindars in the Chicacole Circar—He has possessed himself of a Fort belonging to the former, which was evacuated on his making a practicable breach, and he with his scattered Army is retired to his strong holds among the Mountains The Colonel is at present at

Kimedy,<sup>2</sup> and the Gentlemen at Madras on a Rumour of Nizam Ali's disaffection to their cause have thought it necessary to keep that detachment; either to remain as a Check over the Rebellious conduct of the Zemindars or for the Preservation of the Circars, should the Subah attempt any hostile measures against them.

30. The President and Council at Bombay at the request of the Madras Presidency fitted out an Armament consisting of three Ships many small vessels and Boats, with 500 Europeans and Eight hundred Sepoys against Hyder Ali's Possessions on the Malabar Coast which they reduced on the 1st March last, together with the greatest Part of his Fleet—The Rapid successes of this Armament would have been attended with the greatest consequences, in support of the measures pursued by your Army on the Coast, had they been Permanent but the return of Major Gouin and Mr. Watson to Bombay soon after with a Principal Part of their Marine Force, and some Europeans, on account of the approaching rainy Season encouraged Hyder Ali to march a great Part of his Forces to Mangalore in Person with which he threatened the recapture of this important Settlement. The Major Part of the Garrison though considerable in strength struck with a Panic at his approach instead of making resistance like Soldiers most Scandalously abandoned their Post & retired to Tillicherry; and the remainder suffered themselves to be taken Prisoners in the Fort with all their Ammunition and Warlike Stores—Thus was the Mysorean restored on a sudden to those valuable possessions which the loss of must have greatly disconcerted him in his Military operations on the Coast. An event highly favorable to his cause—As the Neighbouring Powers may possibly be impressed with an idea of his Superior Skill and courage; and will hardly now be prevailed upon to join our Arms against him.

31. Their defeat and the losses incurred by that expedition, have reduced the Gentlemen at Bombay so very considerably, as to disable them from attempting a second enterprise, unless reinforced from your other Settlements—They have represented this Matter very fully to the Presidency at Madras—and requested of them to apply to us for assistance should they be unable to afford them any from thence on any such Application being made to us we shall readily grant them every Assistance that will be compatible with our own situation.

32. The President and Council having determined on not returning the Admiral Watson to England we thought it most advisable to send her round to Bombay whether she will prove an additional force to their Marine should they attempt a second enterprize against Hyder Ali, and if not wanted for such Service she might either be disposed of there, to equal advantage as at this

Port, or sent round to Madras with a Cargo of Cotton, to Assist that Presidency in the remittances for their China Investment—for this purpose we recommended to the Council their ordering the necessary repairs to be made to her and she is now under dispatch

33 The French at Chandernagore having of late taken up large sums of Money in Silver Specie, and transmitted the same to Pondicherry We were apprehensive that such a proceeding must be Productive of dangerous consequences to this Country unless a stop was put to it in future and therefore We recommended to the Ministers of the Government to prohibit all exportation of Silver from these Provinces and to impose such a penalty on disobedience as they might think proper and it being also necessary to represent to his Majesty the many evils arising from the very small quantity of Silver imported for some time past by the French Dutch and other European Nations into his Dominions, we earnestly entreated him to send such orders on this Subject to the Subah of these Provinces, as he might judge most expedient for the ease and happiness of his Subjects

34 We have kept in remembrance the orders you were pleased to send to the President and Council, for transmitting to you such Intelligence as they may be able to obtain of the conduct of the French Nation at the Islands We are seeking an intelligent Person to send thither under a pretence which may give the least cause for suspicions of our designs And from thence to proceed to England in order to Communicate to you the discoveries he may have made—Many difficulties occur in the prosecution of this Scheme but none greater than the fixing upon a Proper Person for the occasion—If we succeed in that you may be assured of our readiness to carry your Orders into execution—

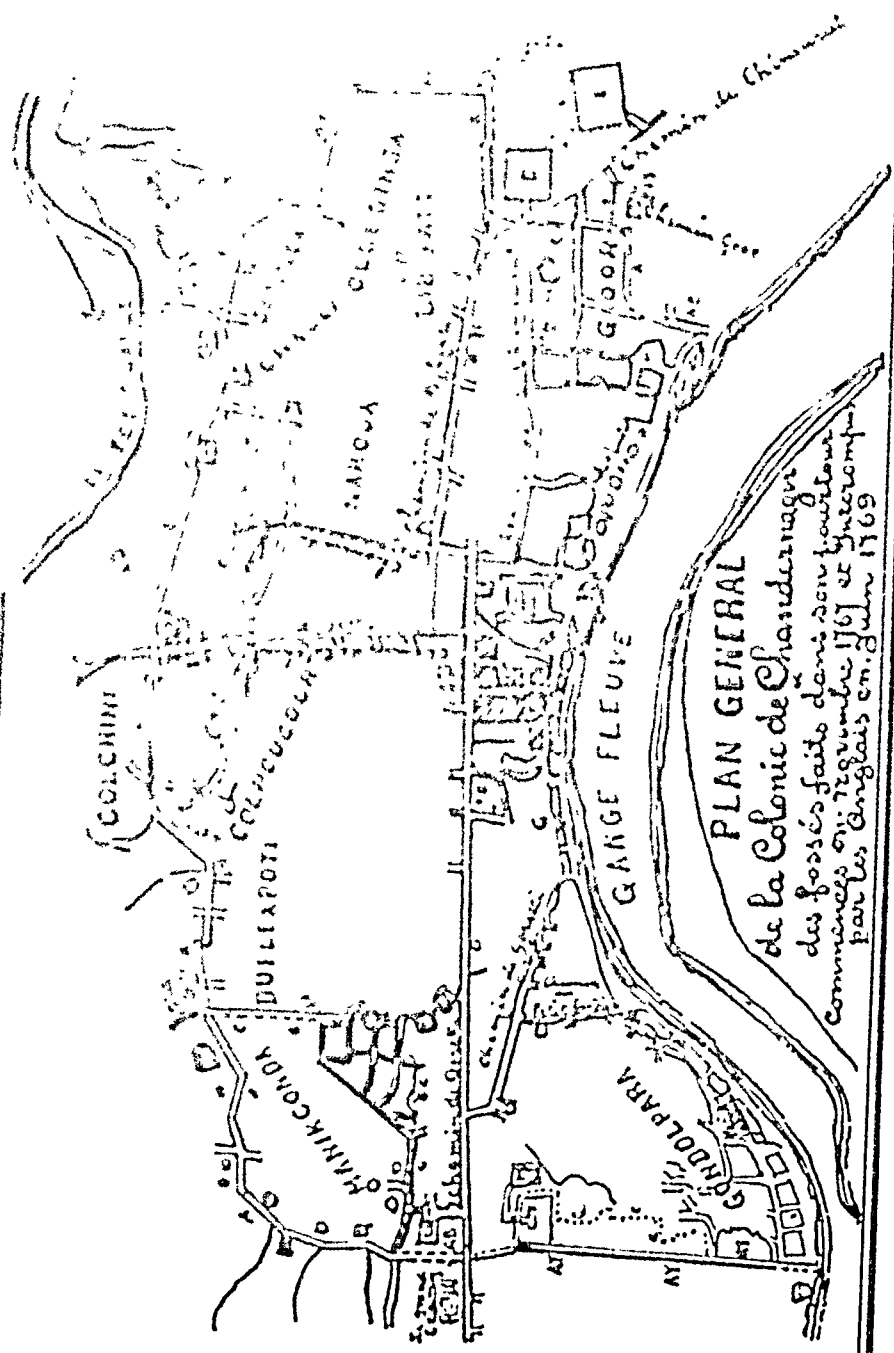
35 When We consider the very large sums of Money with which the French Agents at Chandernagore have already been supplied from Calcutta, for bills granted on their Company in France the Drafts made this Season on individuals in this Settlement to the Amount of Thirty Laaks of Rupees Payable to the Council at Chandernagore and others on Madras for ten Laaks payable to their Agents at Pondicherry we are very strongly induced to Suspect they are reserving a fund in India for some future occasion, it being well Known they are already amply supplied for carrying on their Investments of this Year

36 We are also apprized of Ten Ships being destined from France this Season, seven of which the French intimate are to be sold or to remain in India—That they have already about four thousand of his Christian Majestys Troops at the Island and it cannot admit a doubt but that many of those Vessels are taken up



Projet du fossé fait pour l'écoulement des eaux et de la digue pour empêcher l'invasion de ces eaux dans la Colonie.

Le fossé est fait  
le 10 Mars 1769



# PLAN GENERAL

de la Colonie de Chandernagore  
des fossés faite dans son territoire  
commencés en Septembre 1767 et terminés  
par les Anglais en Juin 1769



for the transportation of a farther number—So alarming a force at a Place from whence it is very difficult to procure the least information of their designs has induced us to have a vigilant eye over our fortifications which having been almost entirely put a stop to for the want of Artificers and Materials we have recommended to the Council to prohibit all private buildings and repairs being carried on in Calcutta or its environs after the 1st of November next—In order that no future impediments may be met with in putting the new Fort in a posture of Defence as expeditiously as possible.

37. It requires no great depth of Judgement to foresee that the assembling such a number of Forces at the French Islands can bode no good to your Settlements in India—Nor are we without our Apprehensions that whenever the French are in a condition to cope with our Nation in Europe they will make some attempt in India; & even this may happen previous to a declaration of War—And as from the situation of the Islands, they are Sole Masters of their own time and operations, it is more than probable that the first intelligence of their intention, will be the appearance of a French Fleet in Ballasore Road.

38. As we judged it most advantageous to have gun carriage as well as all wood and Iron work required for the Service of the New Fort constructed by Contract; We received proposals from three Substantial Persons residing in Calcutta; & deeming reasonable the Terms they offered; We directed the Committee of Works to enter into contracts with them accordingly; and we shall be careful to have the Work inspected that it may be executed in the strongest and best manner. The expense of Materials will thereby be reduced to a degree of certainty and we hope greatly diminished.

39. It is with great concern we acquaint you that differences of opinion have arisen between the President and Colonel Smith: but as they are in general of such a nature as fall more particularly under your Cognizance and stand fully recorded upon your proceedings we beg leave to refer them to your decision.

40. The Colonel upon his resuming his seat at our Board expressed his Astonishment at a Minute delivered in by the President on the 10th February last wherein he stood accused of having counteracted the measures pursued by the President in the course of his Country correspondence and perceived that the same had been transmitted to you without his previous knowledge. The Assurances he then gave us of his ignorance of the transaction which gave cause for such an accusation, were so entirely satisfactory to us; that we not only condemn the false and ill natured representation of Munerut ul Dowlah to the President on this occasion; but are under

much concern lest our opinions thereupon which were transmitted to you by the Admiral Pococke should induce you to entertain Sentiments unfavorable to the Colonel, and it is with pleasure we embrace this early opportunity to assure you that so far from entertaining such an idea to his prejudice we can with the utmost confidence confirm that he has convinced us of his earnest desire to co operate with us in any transaction that may redound to your honor and Interest

41 We hope and have reason to flatter ourselves that in future our deliberations will be conducted with that harmony so desirable to ourselves as individuals and so highly necessary for the well governing of yr affairs

42 Colonel Smith having expressed his strong desire of returning to Europe by one of the early ships of this Season We represented to him that his presence was necessary until the issue of our negotiations with Sujah Dowlah was known—On this representation he cheerfully assented to proceed up the country as one of the Members of the deputation but as he has requested you should be informed of his intention to resign his Commission as soon as your affairs will permit—We deem it necessary to give you this information, and at the same time take the liberty of recommending in the strongest Manner, Colonel Sir Robert Barker to your favor, And we hope that so many years distinguished Services, his general good Character his Abilities as an Officer, and his Attachment to Your Service, will induce you to confirm him in the Appointment of the Command of your Forces after Colonel Smiths departure

43 We have as yet reced no more than 700 Recruits this Season from Europe, of the number destined for this Settlement, notwithstanding all Your Coast and Bay Ships are safely Imported We must suppose that the remainder are on the Bombay Ships which you have ordered to touch at Madras and have therefore requested of the Gentlemen there, to forward them to us—by the first opportunities after our arrival as without them it will be impossible to form your Military Establishment in the manner you have been pleased to direct

44 You will perceive by the Treasury account transmitted to you by this Conveyance from the President and Council that it is entirely out of our Power to comply with your discretionary Orders for sending five hundred thousand Pounds in Specie to Europe by the Ships of this Season—To the great supplies we have furnished Your Presidencies of Fort St George and Bombay—Your Supra Cargoes at Canton and to the Considerable increase of your

Investment here must be imputed the very low state of your Treasury—Experience Confirms us in the sentiments we have repeatedly expressed to you concerning the exportation of bullion from the Provinces and it becomes a matter of still more important consideration as foreign Nations who were accustomed to import such large quantities of bullion for the Purchase of their Cargoes for Europe are no longer under that necessity since by Bills from and by drafts on Europe they obtain an ample sufficiency for all their occasions. And here we cannot but remark that the very great Reduction you have been pleased to make in the rate of Exchange will undoubtedly contribute to the prolongation of this Evil.

45. We have the honor to transmit you a Number in this Packet a translation of the Account Collections in the Provinces of Midnapore and Jellapore in conformity to your former Directions attested by the Major together with the return of the Army of the Country Correspondence and the broken Sets of our Proceedings and Letters received and sent since the last dispatch for your particular information and have the honor to subscribe ourselves with great Respect.

Honorable Sirs  
Yr. faithful & most  
obt. humble Servts.

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Richard  
Smith/Richard Becher/Charles  
Floyer.

Fort William  
13th Sept. 1768

Colonel Smith signs the foregoing Letter to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors with this reservation that he does not intend thereby to contradict any opinion he has already entered on Record.

Richard Smith.

## 19

### LETTER DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 1768

*Wanted an indent of steel—ample provision made for China investment and expenses of war with Haïdar Ali—dispute with the French regarding investment—Committee of aurungs to correspond with the French and the Dutch in future—no prospect of competency*

*for servants of the Company—a committee of enquiry to examine Berhampore Cantonment accounts—resolution recalling all gold mohurs of the new currency—Bolts to be sent home—functions of the Resident at the Durbar and the Chief of the Cossimbazar factory—Colonel Smith to use the King's present of 2 lakhs subject to the approval of the Directors—All new gold mohurs received back into the treasury.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies

Honorable Sirs

1. Sensible of the Advantages you derive in Receiving a Cargo from hence early in the Season, as well as the Material & important consequences of early advices We determined on dispatching home the Admiral Watson the latter end of last Month.

2. The necessary measures were accordingly immediately taken for putting our intentions in Execution should she on a careful Examination & Survey have been found in a proper condition to perform this Voyage But from the Report We Rec'd from our Master Attendant of the Repairs she was in want of & the little certainty with which he could ascertain the Expence of them We were apprehensive they might amount to much more than We at first imagined & not be finished sooner than the time by which We could prepare one of your Charter Party Ships.

3. From this motive & the still stronger one of being able to provide & send you full as early a much more valuable Cargo by one of them We were induced to change our intentions & send home the Valentine instead of the Watson. The former Ship accordingly now proceeds on her intended Voyage & by her We shall give you a detail of the most material Occurrences since our last advices which We had the Honor to transmit you by the Admiral Pocock Duplicate of which goes enclosed.

4. For a more minute & particular Account of our Transactions We must beg leave to Refer you to our annual General Advices.

5. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that all your Ships destined for Coast & Bay have safely arrived with us in the following Order

The Admiral Watson . . . . .	30th May
Valentine . . . . .	26 June
Verelst . . . . .	28 June
Kent . . . . .	9 July

Dutton	. . . . .	9 August
Queen	. . . . .	23rd Do.
Salisbury	. . . . .	} 25th Do.
Talbot	. . . . .	
Ankerwyke'	. . . . .	31st do

and by them We have had the Honor to Receive your Commands under date 20th Novr. & 2nd Decm. 1767, 12th Janry. & 16th March 1768.

6. And We have the further Satisfaction to inform you that the following Ships have safely arrived at Madrass for the other parts of India & China.

Grosvenor  
Ponsborne  
Clive  
Pacific

True Briton  
Sea Horse  
Horsendon  
Granby

7. By a Letter we Rec'd from Capt. Sealy We had the pleasure to learn the Northington was on the 6th March last 20 Leagues Eastward from Point Palmiras Intelligence from Consn. 4th April. the Captains of Ships when they leave their Pilots is so necessary & satisfactory that we have inserted in their sailing Orders, that they are in future not to omit giving us this information.

8. We had also the pleasure to hear from Capt. Riddell that the Admiral Pococke was clear of the danger of Consn. 11th April. this River five tides below Ingellee & in very moderate Weather.

9. As the Weather is very precarious & the season not to be depended upon after the fifteenth of Febr'y. We have given it in Command to the Master Attendant always to send a spare Anchor & Cable on board each of the Pilot Sloops that [carry?] any of your Ships out of the River after that Period in [case?] of any emergency to such timely Assistance may be of the most material Consequence.

10. And as We considered Culpee to be a safer & more convenient place for your Ships to lie at from its being nearer to Calcutta & the Channel being again opened with a good depth of Water he has had our Orders to bring them up to that place in future.

11. Capt. Riddell having informed us by Letter that two of his Mid Shipmen had eloped from his Ship & that he had strong Reason to suspect they were seduced away by Consn. [4?] April Mr. Mc. Taggart We directed an enquiry to be made into his behavior that if it appeared he had instigated or

encouraged those Young Persons to this conduct we might shew a proper Resentment

12 Mr Mc Taggart was accordingly examined by he absolutely desired (*sic*) knowing any thing of the Men & positively, asserted that he was entirely innocent of the accusation laid to his Charge & in no shape accessary to the Desertion

13 The Master Attendant laid before us an Acct of the Expences attending the Repairs of the Royal Admiral during the time she was here & also for fitting out the Sloops for the Expedition to the Coast. The former We have since sent to the Gentn at Fort Marlbro' & the latter was referred to the Examination of the Military Pay Master General & ordered to be discharged

Consn 11 April  
Consn 11th Apl  
18 do

14 We are sorry to inform you that the Knox Schooner was unfortunately oversett in a severe Gale of Wind & tht every possible Measure to weigh her proved ineffectual

15 In the Postscript of the Letter We had the honor to address you by the Admral Pococke We informed you of an Application from the Gentn of Fort St George for an Additional supply of six Laacks of Rupees to support the Expences of the War This Supply We accordingly furnished them with & it was sent in equal Proportions on the Snows Asia & Carlisle

16 Unfortunately the former Vessell met with an Accident at Ingellee which Obliged her to Return to Meyepore' to be Refitted but as the Damage she sustained was not of that material consequence to Render it necessary to have the Treasure taken out of her We let it Remain on board Lest however the detention occasioned by this accident should Retard her so much as to make it difficult for her to get as far to the Southward as Madrass We sent Orders to the Commander that in such case he was to land the Treasure either at Vizacapatam or at Mazulipatam or any of the Compys Settlements he might put in at

Consn 25th Apl

17 As the Ship St Helena which you were informed in the 13th para of our General Letter of the 2nd Febry we intended sending with some presents to the King of Pegu was dropping down the River she started one of her But Ends which it was imagined would have prevented her making her intended Voyage fortunately however the Leak was discovered & Repaired & She has since proceeded to Pegue

18 The Owners of the Greenwich Ketch having Requested



to be indulged with an Additional Allowance of Freight in consideration of the Troops sent on board that Vessel being carried from Vizagapatam to Mazulipatam when their Agreement was only to transport them to the first Port. We referred their Application to the Master Attendant & desired him to consult two of the most Able Commanders of Vessels in the Place to fix on a Reasonable Allowance for this Service.

19. They accordingly stipulated the Sum of 4 Rupees a Man which we deemed a Reasonable & Equitable consideration & directed the My Pay Master General to pay it.

20. As We Experienced every good Consequence we could possibly expect or desire from the measure adopted last Year of having Boats Ready to transport the Troops to the Army immediately on their Arrival from England not having lost more than one Man either by death or desertion We pursued the same method this Year and at the Approach of the Season when we might expect your Ships We gave directions to the My Pay Master General to provide a sufficient number of Boats, for transporting 300 Men to be ready by the end of May, for a like number by the end of June, & for a like number by the end of July, And We have the Satisfaction to inform you that this Year also good Consequences have Resulted from this Measure.

21. Several of his Majesty's Marines who entered into your Service & had money paid them on Acct. of Wages due to them who  
 Consn. 30th May in his Majesty's Service have given us Receipts for the sums they have Rec'd & we have now the Honor to transmit them a Number in this Packet.

22. As soon as we were Honored with the Receipt of your Command by the Admiral Watson the first Object of our Attention was that Material one you have so earnestly  
 Consn. 7th June. Recommended of concerting Measure with your other Residencies for Returning all your Ships home the Season they arrive in India from the present Prospects of our Investment We hope to accomplish this purpose.

23. We accordingly took into most Serious consideration this Subject & from the Judgement We then formed We calculated that we should be able to provide Tonnage for  
 Consn. 7th June. seven Ships exclusive of the Admiral Watson But as the Gentn. of Fort St. George could not assure themselves whether they should have it in their Power to furnish Cargoes for two or more Ships it of course Rested with them to detain as many of those destined for Bombay as they might deem necessary for the Coast & Bay Cargoes.

24. This Advice We did not fail to transmit immediately to the Presidencies of Fort St. George & Bombay & also to acquaint them with the Proportion of Salt Petre allotted them for their own use & that of their Ships which was as follows

Fort St. George for 2 Ships . . . . .	6000 Mds.
for the use of the Presidency . . . . .	5000
Bombay for six Ships . . . . .	28000
for the use of the Presidency . . . . .	3000 Mds.

25. The Royal Admiral on which We informed you in our Letter of the 14th March we had sent five Lacks of Rupees to Madrass narrowly escaped foundering in a very severe gale of Wind She met with in her way thither which Obligated Capt Rosing to cut away her Main & Mizzen Masts. The Gentn. at Fort St. George however gave us hopes that they could procure Masts for her from Tranquebar & that she would be soon able to prosecute her Voyage tho' they should be under the necessity of Replacing some of her Cargo that was damaged by this Accident, as well as Repairing her.

26. The Gentn. at Fort Marlbro' having no use for the Snow Diligent intended sending her to us the latter end of last Year to be disposed of But she was unfortunate in two attempts she made & they purposed dispatching her again in the month of May but we have not yet heard any thing of her.

27. We are sorry to hear the damages which the Calcutta Rec'd in our River have prevented her Returning home last Season from Bombay but the Gentn. there inform us it is the opinion of their best Judges that it would be too great a Risk for her to Attempt beating Round the Cape at a bad Season of the Year in her Situation, but they were also of opinion She must proceed in November next & shall accordingly accept her if she is tendered in time & Reported in a fit condition.

28. We have had the Pleasure to hear from Fort St. George that the Snows Lively & Carlisle which carried Treasure from hence have safely arrived there.

29. In Consequence of an Application from the Gentn. at Fort St. George to Bombay for a large Supply of Gun Powder & having given them hopes of being able to furnish half a Cargoe for Europe the Gentn. of the latter Presidency determined to send the Chatham thither to carry the same & have laden half her Charter Party portion of Tonnage to be dispatched from thence when She has taken in the Remainder.

30. By the Calculation the Gentn. at Bombay have made of their Tonnage it appears they will only have sufficient for four Ships

or at most for five which lays them under the necessity of sending two that you have destined to their side of India to us as the accident the Calcutta met with leaves them an Additional Ship to provide for.

31. These Ships they intend sending Round with Cotton upon Freight if procureable or else on your acct. How far our hopes of the Calculation of the Investment may be fulfilled it is impossible for us at present to determine & of course whether We shall have it in our power to provide Tonnage for these two Ships But should our utmost endeavour to procure Cargoes for them prove ineffectual We shall then employ them in the most advantageous manner in the Country on your Acct. until they can be Returned home.

32. The Gentn. of the Select Committee having acquainted us they had some service for the Admiral Watson to perform which they imagined would employ her about four months, We ordered the Master Attendant to put her in proper Repair as soon as possible to enable her to undertake a Voyage of that space of time.

33. The Fortune Snow was offered to carry Freight to Fort Marlbro' & We Readily embraced that opportunity of sending to the Gentn. of that Presidency 900 Bags of Rice & ten Pipes of Madeira Wine We were induced to encrease our supply of Wine to them & send all Madeira from their being a larger Quantity of it in the Settlement than usual & imagining they would prefer it to Teneriffe By this conveyance we acquainted them with the Accident you informed us in your Letter of the 12th Janry. the Grosvenor had met with at Gravesend.

34. We Rec'd a Representation from our Master Attendant in behalf of the owner of a Private Sloop who had saved at the great

Risk of his own Vessel some Recruits that were Consn. 22nd Augst. in a Boat which were overset but in performing this Service his Vessel which he was obliged to bring to in the middle of the Stream was a good deal damaged & the Man himself petitioned for some Allowance to be made him. As a Reward for his Humanity & to encourage such attention as he had shewn We ordered the damages his Sloop had on this occasion sustained to be Repaired at your Expence & gave him a Gratuity of 300 Rupees.

35. It is with pleasure we can inform you that all your Ships destined to this Presidency except the Ankerwyke have made successful Voyages But She unfortunately Run aground upon the Barrabulla Sand<sup>2</sup> at the entrance of the River & hath we are apprehensive Rec'd a good deal of hurt as she complains very much & for immediate Assistance was obliged to Run up to Town Every possible Relief hath been afforded her & We expect very soon to be

informed particularly of the hurt She hath Sustained at present we can only speak in general Terms as she is not unloaded A Proper enquiry will be made into the Conduct of the Pilot.

36. The Queen & Dutton indeed met with an Accident at Sea which might have been of fatal Consequences but which we have the greatest Reason to hope are very Trifling they fell on board each other in their Passage to Madrass & tho' no material damages appear to be done to either yet we have thought it necessary to order them both to be Surveyed

37 Altho' we could have wished to have been informed of the precise Number of Ships the Gentn. at Fort St George can provide Tonnage for before we proceeded in the destination of them Yet We thought it would be so acceptable a piece of Intelligence to you & as the Season is now so far advanced that we could not think of deferring this measure any longer & We Accordingly fixed their dispatches for the following Periods

To the Coast The Dutton about the middle of December  
The Queen about the middle of Janry Directly for England

The Verelst	. . . . .	22nd Novr
Kent	. . . . .	15 Decr
Salisbury	. . . . .	10th Janry
Talbot	. . . . .	1st Febr'y

And the two Ships from Bombay one the latter end of February & the other in March

38 We have deferred coming to any determination Regarding the Ankerwyke until We are more fully informed of the damages she hath sustained from the Accident We informed you in the 35 Para She had met with

39 Steel is an Article We are much in want of & as you have not furnished us with any this Year We earnestly Request you would please to comply with the Indent We shall make to you by our next Ship & We flatter ourselves that from this information you will avail yourselves of the first opportunity you may have of sending us a Quantity of this Article

40 The very heavy Expences of the War upon the Coast which greatly distressed your Presidency there for Money made the Gentn there very earnest in their Sollicitations to us for supplies & were Apprehensive lest we could not supply them But we flatter ourselves the very ample provision we have made for the China Investment as well as for their Expences to carry on the War which amounted to no less a Sum than 22 Lacks of Rupees & have besides paid Bills

drawn on us since our last Advices amounting to 432995-11-9 will Obviate every apprehension those Gentn. seemed to be under in their Letter of the 12th Janry.

41. In Order to prevent as much as is in their power the Inconveniencies which are generally felt at all your Presidencies by the Repeated drains of Silver to China The Gentn. at Fort St. George have pursued in a more extensive manner the scheme of purchasing Articles for the China Market which We hope will in some measure Answer that essential purpose of easing us in the heavy Remittances of Silver as the greatest part of these purchases have been paid for by Bills drawn on us And these hopes We earnestly wish to be confirmed as Silver becomes every day more & more scarce in the Country & the Consequence of these Remittances more & more Serious.

42. Your Annual Sale of Europe Imports was held the 25 May & the Acct. entered in our Consultation of the 7th June on the 30th of that Month the Import Warehouse Keeper delivered in an Acct. of some damaged Goods Remaining in the Ware House which were then Ordered to be sold, the Acct. Sale of these Goods appears upon our Consultation of the 11th July.

Consn. 7 June,  
11th July

43. The Military Store Keeper laid before us a Report of the weight of some old Arms & unserviceable Ordnance in the Garrison which we shall Transmit to you by the Ships of this Season taking Receipts from the Captains for what is Rec'd on board & which they are to deliver to you on their Arrival in Europe.

44. As the Gun Powder which you permit the Commanders of your Ships to bring out in their Victualling Bills does but too often fall into improper hands We have in order to prevent the bad consequences which must Result from its being indiscriminately disposed of strictly prohibited their disposing of it to any body but the Company And the Intention of this Order will we flatter ourselves be a sufficient Justification of the measure. The more We Reflected on the Necessity of this measure the more we were convinced of its utility And that We should not confine our Restrictions to Gun Powder only but that we ought to extend them & prohibit the Sale of Military Stores of every Denomination to all private Persons We accordingly issued a Subsequent Order to the Captains to this purport & promised in that case to give them Receipts to produce to you as Vouchers for the Delivery on their Return home & We particularly entreat you to call upon them for these Receipts & an Acct. of what Remains in Order that you may more fully know how they have been disposed of.

45. In consequence of a Report made by the Export Ware House Keeper in Cons: the 28th July of some damaged & Ferret Goods they were Ordered to be disposed of.

46. In the 24th Parah. of this Letter you were acquainted with the Proportion of Salt Petre we had allotted for the Presidencies of Fort St. George & Bombay & their Ships We now beg leave to lay before you our Calculation of the whole Quantity of this Article & the Distribution We have made of it.

From Patna We expect to Receive . . . . .	97000 Mds.
— Purnea . . . . .	12000
The Remains in the E.W.H. Keeper . . . . .	24000
<hr/>	
Which Amounts in all to . . . . .	133000
<hr/>	
We allotted . . . . .	Mds.
Bombay for six Ships . . . . .	28000
For the use of the Presidency . . . . .	3000
Fort St. George for two Ships . . . . .	6000
For the use of the Presidency . . . . .	5000
Bengal for seven Ships . . . . .	26000
For the use of the Presidency . . . . .	15000
Dutch . . . . .	23000
French . . . . .	18000
<hr/>	
	114000

47. According to this Calculation & distribution a Ballance will Remain of 19000 Mds. the President having informed Us he had had several Applications from the Danes to be indulged with a small Quantity for their Ship We could not Refuse complying with so Reasonable a Request & accordingly allowed them 4000 Mds. after which there will Remain in the Ware House 15000 Mds. for any Exigency that may hereafter happen.

48. Upon altering our Resolution of sending home the Adml. Watson & Agreeing to dispatch the Valentine We immediately sent Order to Cossimbuzar & Luckypore & our Consn 4th Augst Committee of Aurungs to prepare as large a proportion of the Investment as possible to be Ready by the 20th Augst. & we have accordingly Recd a very ample provision.

49. We have already put 5000 Mds. of the Proportion of Salt Petre allotted the Gentn. of Fort St. George on the Carnatic.  
Consn. 23 Augst,

50. The Nabob having informed the Governor that the New Siccas of the 9th Year had been struck in his Mint we ordered them to be struck here also This is a Custom that has prevailed so long, is so firmly Rooted & the Natives are so bigotted to it that tho' we are sensible of the great Advantages of Abolishing it & so ardently wish to do it yet we are Apprehensive it will not be in our power to effect it but we shall again enter in this Subject in our future Advices.

51. The heavy Expences & the very high prices paid for Saul Timbers induced us to fall upon some other method of providing them We therefore applied to the Ministers for their Assistance & We have the pleasure to inform you there has been a sufficient Quantity provided for the use of all your Offices at about 8 Rupees & a half each which is not more than a third of the price We have hitherto paid for them.

52. To encrease your Investment as much as possible in Quantity & to improve it in Quality—To conduct this important Branch of Business without disputes or alarming the Factory of other European Nations & to Accommodate every dispute that hath Arisen have been Objects constantly in our View & eagerly pursued.

53. But the greatest care & Attention on our part hath not been able to prevent Clamour, or quiet Discontent, Disputes & Altercations between ours & the French Nation have arisen & many Complaints have been preferred which have not only swelled our Public Proceedings but filled the Governors private Correspondence. It was the hopes of effecting some accommodation advantagious to both nations of establishing the Commerce between us upon an equitable footing & of putting an end to that Source of dispute & Complaint so detrimental to the Concord & Harmony which we wish to subsist between us that induced us to receive some Proposals on this Subject from Mr. Chevalier.

54. In order to guide ourselves in this important point & to be informed how far we were authorised by your Commands to

accept of these Proposals. We referred to your  
 Consn. 18 April. several Orders Regarding the French & from your Directions contained in the 42 Parah. of your General Letter under date 15th Febry. 1765 as well as from many others of the same tendency We were of opinion We could not with Propriety determine on a matter of such Importance ourselves & have therefore left it to your discussion & decision.

55. This We acquainted Mr. Chevalier with & at the same time Assured him that as We had always paid an inviolable Regard to our promises of preserving Harmony & Unanimity. We should

continue to do so that no interruption from us either directly or indirectly should be given to their Trade & should any differences Arise it would be our part to adjust them with the Strictest Equity & in the most speedy manner

56 The President at this time took occasion to inform us that the great weight of Business he had upon his hands & the many other

Affairs of Government he had to take up his time  
 Consn 18th Apl & Attention would not permit him to carry on so extensive a Correspondence with the French & Dutch as that was about their Investment so precisely as it Required & that he could therefore wish it might be conducted thro some other Channel Sensible of the Justness of his Remonstrance & willing to ease him all in our power of this Load of Business We thought the Committee of Aurungs the most proper Channel to turn this correspondence into & at the same time that we Required them to conduct this Branch of Business We also enjoined them to lay before us their Proceedings for our Approbation & Assent previous to their being carried into Execution

57 To deprive the French & Dutch Nations of those Advantages they derive from the very large Sums paid by English Individuals into their Treasuries by which they have been able to make early & large Advances for their Investments was a measure so ardently wished for by Us & as earnestly Recommended by you and in our Consultation of the 18th May it was the Subject of our Debates But we were Reduced to a very disagreeable Alternative either to act contrary to your Injunctions by Receiving Sums for Remittances thro' your Cash or to continue to the French & Dutch that Source of Supplies from whence flowed the chief support of their Trade We were inclined to think the former would have been a more justifiable Step & had it been found necessary to have taken it we were in hopes the footing upon which we should have put the Terms of Remittances & the Arguments We had to use in support of this Measure would have Justified us in your eyes But your Commands by the Adml Watson laying us under still stronger Injunctions in Regard to Bills not being drawn on you and the Method fallen upon by Individuals to have their fortunes transmitted home by drawing Bills on their Attornies here in favor of the French amounting to 30 Lack of Rupees put a final Period to our Resolutions & we are informed Bills have been obtained from Europe payable to their Agents at Pondecherry for ten Lacks more & besides the drafts from Europe large Sums have been paid in by Individuals for Bills on the French East India Company

58 Experience hath fully convinced us of the Numberless abuses the Gomastahs of Individuals are guilty of in every part of



the Country but more particularly so the more Remote their Residence is from the Presidency It was in order to check these abuses & at the Recommendation of the Gentn. of the Consn. 18 May Select Committee that We came to the Resolution in our Consultation of the 18th May positively to prohibit under the severest Restrictions all persons whatsoever except the Natives (Musselmen & Hindoos) from carrying on any Trade or Traffic beyond the Provinces of Bengal Bahar or Orissa & also to Recall all Gomastahs employed by the English that were out of these Limits.

59. It is with concern Gentn. that We Observe you are still of Opinion there is grounds for Complaint with Respect to the Cargoes of the French & Dutch & that some of your Servants have assisted in providing them We have taken every precaution to guard against this Practice & We do not know that any of your Servants or even Free Merchants do avowedly carry on this Clandestine Trade at the same time We must Remark that an ind [...] Trade may be carried on by Individuals & its scarcely possible for us to detect it That We have been attentive to your Instructions We flatter ourselves will be fully proved from the very considerable Increase of your Investment for two Years past & the Prospects of a still greater encrease this Year We have however Repeated our Instructions on this Subject & transmitted your Orders to the several Subordinates.

60. It is utterly impossible as We have before observed to prevent the Foreign Nations from complaining of Interruptions to their Investment The Dutch Preferred since to us in Consultation 27th June which Agreeable to the Resolution Consn. 27th June We informed you of in the 56th Para: We referred to the Committee of Aurungs. At the same time they Represented to us that a Murder had been committed in the Province of Burdwan upon some of their Servants who were carrying 'Treasure thro' those Districts We communicated these Circumstances to the Collector General & desired him to Order our Resident at Burdwan to make the strictest enquiry into this Affair for our further proceedings We beg leave to Refer you to Cons: the 27th June & 25th August.

61. As the Presidents ill state of Health would not permit him to attend the Poonea Mr. Cartier was desired to proceed thither in his stead which he accordingly did.

62. Such Parts of your Orders & Instructions Relative to the Salt Trade as we could carry into immediate Execution were considered on in our Cons: of the 11th Augst. & the necessary Orders then issued for disposing of the Callaries agreeable to your

Commands contained in the 92nd Para of your General Letter under date 20th Novr 1767 some Points however Required more mature deliberation & We Referred these material ones The Duty to be levied on this Trade for the Government The Regulations & Restrictions under which it is to be carried on in order to prevent Individuals of our own & Foreign Nations interfering in it To the discussion of a Committee appointed for this purpose who are to point out & lay before us a Plan that they may deem most Eligible for carrying on this Important Trade conformably to the Spirit & meaning of your Orders

63 We are sensible it was a tender Regard & Attention to the Ease & Welfare of the Native Inhabitants that induced you to prohibit all your Servants & other Europeans under your Protection from Trading in Salt Beetle or Tobacco or any other Article the Produce of this Country but what is meant for Exportation And that these your Intentions might be fully known & complied with We issued an Advertisement to this Effect & Transmitted it to all our Subordinate Factories for their Information & Guidance

64 But permit us Gentn on this occasion to Represent to you that deprived of this very material Branch of Trade greatly confined in that one only you have been pleased to allow us by the very considerable increase of your Investment & the large demands for Goods from the other European Nations little is left to your Servants & no prospects of that Competency we are confident you would wish every faithful Servant to be Rewarded with after a Series of Service We are also confident Gentn this is a state you would not wish to see your Servants Reduced to as it is manifest from the intention of the Indulgence you have lately granted those who have Risen to Superior Stations—But this Indulgence will never insure a Competence And Pardon us if we add your OWN Servants will now see the Toil of Years Rewarded with little more than a Subsistence whilst the Servants of other Nations are reaping the Harvest of those Restrictions you have imposed upon yours & acquiring Affluent Fortunes And this difficulty that your Servants now Labor under must encrease in proportion to their Zeal & endeavours in carrying into Execution your Orders & increasing your Investment

65 In the 45th Paragraph of our General Letter under date the 22nd Febr'y we had the Honor to inform you that we were

then in hopes to acquaint you before the final  
 Consn 4th Apl dispatches of that Season of our having fixed  
 our choice of a Place to build an Hospital upon No conclusive  
 measures were however agreed upon until the 4th April when  
 in Consultation of that date several Proposals were laid before us

& we accepted of those offered by the Revd. Mr. Kiernander & Agreed to purchase a large strong new Built House of his for 98900 Rupees from the Conviction that the purchase of an Hospital Ready Built would turn out considerably cheaper than building one from the foundation & as We have experienced that it is much cheaper to build by Contract than any other method We entered into a Contract with him for the Completion of the necessary [Building] to make this House convenient for the purposes of an Hospital & we are convinced this will be not only the cheapest but the most expeditious way of Compleating a proper Hospital.

66. Our next General Advices were by the Admiral Pococke & in the 18th Parah. of the Letter we transmitted you by her We Remarked to you the slow Progress of the Cantonments at Burrampore near Cossimbuzar at the same time we gave you hopes that we should be able to send you a more favorable Acct. of their state by the Ship of this Season but are sorry to inform you We have been greatly disappointed in these hopes. And we must here Exhibit to your View a scene that gives us no less pain to Relate than it will you to hear.

67. It was necessary to make an Enquiry into the State of these Buildings the cause of the small Progress & the great Expençe they had been attended with The vigilance Attention & dispatch which Capt. Watson your Field Engineer had shewn in conducting the Buildings at Dinapore near  
 Consn. 4th May. Patna pointed him out to us as the most proper Person to Inspect into the state of those at Burrampore He was accordingly ordered from Patna for this purpose & to lay before us a full Acct. of their Condition the time he imagined they would be finished & the further Expençe it would cost to compleat them In a short time after he had entered upon this charge he wrote a Letter to the Chief & Council at Cossimbuzar which they transmitted to us of so very alarming & Serious an Import that we desired an Enquiry to be made into the Allegations set forth in Capt. Watsons Letter.

68. It evidently appeared from this Letter of Capt. Watsons that there had been great mismanagement in Conducting those works & had but too much Reason to apprehend there  
 Consn. 18 July. had been too much attention shewn to private Emoluments than to your Interest for it is most certain that had the same prices for Materials continued to Have been charged the then future Expences would have been upwards of 17 Lacks of Rupees.

69. Principal Articles of Complaint were the very high & exorbitant Prices that had been affixed to the Materials that were

provided for the use of the Cantonments one particular & Extraordinary Circumstance was a Charge that was made for 4000 Saul Timbers purchased of Mr. George Williamson at the Rate of 30 Sicca Rs. each These Timbers were Reported to have been surveyed by Capt. Martin your Chief Engineer in March 1766 And tho' it appears from the Buxey Connah Accts. that these Timbers were bought of & delivered by Mr. Williamson & that the whole Sum was paid to him between the Months of May 1766 & May 1767 yet notwithstanding there were only two thousand four hundred actually delivered on the 3rd May 1768 & he had not near the number of 4000 belonging to him.

70. It appeared to us highly necessary that an Information of this very extraordinary nature should be very fully & clearly examined into & investigated & for these  
 Consn. [28th?] July. purposes we appointed a Committee of Enquiry to consist of Messrs Alexander, Aldersey & Skinner to examine & inspect into the accts. & Charges of Burrampore Cantonments & We ordered Mr. William Lushington to attend them in the Capacity of an Assistant.

71. The Powers We vested them with & the Instructions we gave them appear upon the face of our Consn. the 28th July & to that we beg leave to Refer you for your more particular Information.

72. As soon as the Committee had made some Progress in their Examination they wrote us a Letter wherein they acquainted us that  
 Consn. 29th Augst. when they called upon Messrs Forbes & Palk the former of whom had been & the latter was Buxey for their Original Accts. those Gentn. Refused to deliver them alledging that they had destroyed them & that when they called upon their Banians & Circars for Copies of these Papers they absolutely denied having any, assenting they had delivered them up to their Masters.

73. They also called upon Mr. Williamson to explain the Circumstance Relative to the 4000 Saul Timbers & likewise upon  
 Consn. 29th Augst. St. Mestayer who had Superintended the Works for some time. The former Gentn. delivered in a Letter endeavoring to acquit himself that it appears from the enquiry Books he had delivered only 296 Timbers when he had Rec'd the full Estimated Amount for the 4000 & the latter Refused giving upon Oath any Information of the matter.

74. In consequence of the Contumacious Behaviour of Messrs Forbes & Palk & St. Mestayer & the little Mr. Williamson had to  
 Consn. 29th Augst. say in his defence they suspended those Gentn. from their Employes & We thought proper to Order them to the Presidency.

75. As it appears from the Cossimbuzar Consultations which are entered on ours of the 18 July that Capt. Martin had actually  
 Reported to have Surveyed 4000 Timbers  
 Consn. 29 Augst. belonging to Mr. Williamson & that these Timbers were purchased in consequence of his Report & [as] it also plainly appears from Mr. Williamsons Letter to the Com'ittee that he had only 800 upon the Spot at the time Capt. Martin was called upon to explain this matter But as his Explanation was not at all Satisfactory We ordered our Secretary to write him the Letter which is entered in our Cons. 29th Augst. to which he Returned an Answer in Cons. 6th Septr. which We transmitted to the Resident at the Durbar & to the Committee of Enquiry to which we beg leave to Refer you.

76. In this Situation Remains a Transaction which We are sorry to say affects the Integrity of some of your Servants & the final Issue[.....] which must be the Subject of our future Advices.

77. We are not surprized that you should be so much alarmed at the Representations which have been Transmitted to you by the Chief Engineer concerning those Parts of the Fortifications which were in h[.....] before his Arrival But that we might be enabled to form a Competent Judgement of the Propriety of those Representations We directed Major Polier who formerly had Charge of your Public Works & Capt. Watson your Field Engineer to survey the New Fort & to make their Report which you will find entered in your Cons: of the 20th July.

78. That the Exterior Facing or Revetment of which Capt. Martin complains so heavily was constructed with a proper degree of Solidity is universally Allowed but the Idea of Razing the whole Front of the Fortification & Rebuilding it upon a deeper & more Solid foundation is a Project as universally disapproved. It would leave your Fortifications in a manner Defenceless for Years & entail upon you an inexhaustible source of Expeice without adding to the strength of the Place tho' it might to its Durability whereas the present Revetment intended only to Protect your Works against the Heavy Rains of the Monsoon when covered with the Ravelins & a proper Glacis will We flatter ourselves enable your Garrison to make the most Vigorous defence & Colonel Smith has declared this to the Board, to be his Opinion.

79. You will perceive that we have come to the Resolution of constructing Ravelins before each of the Curtains The Expediency of this measure was apparent since it will not only greatly add to the strength of your Fortifications by covering the Body of the Place & Retarding the Approach of an Enemy but the Additional Expence

which will be incurred is so small as not to be an Object for had We not determin'd to Construct Ravelins We should have been under the necessity of bringing forward the Glacis & to have formed it according to the Body of the Place which Expence would have been very considerable & now becomes unnecessary

80 We acquainted you in a cursory manner in our Letter of the 22nd Novr Para 57th that We had been disappointed in our motive for Establishing a Gold Currency We then informed you we were Apprehensive it would not Obviate the Scarcity of Silver We are sorry to say these Apprehensions were but too well founded And in these Sentiments We were Confirmed by a Minute of the Mint Master entered in our Cons of the 4th

81 The consequences of this Currency were greatly complained of It was pointed out as the immediate Source of a General Evil The Interruption Trade had met with the inconvenience under which the Merchant had labored from the great Scarcity of Silver & high price it bore The many & pressing Complaints which were made of the grievances accruing both to Trade in General & to Domestick Expences in particular were all Effects attributed to this cause

82 The necessity of Removing this Public Burthen as soon as possible & the Obvious Consequences that these alarming effects would encrease whilst the cause Existed made us earnestly wish to put an immediate stop to the Currency but we were obliged to defer our Resolutions until very lately Earlier in the Season we could not carry into Execution our earnest wish to put a stop to this great Evil for want of Silver Currency Till the Present time we were sensible we could not expect any considerable Surplus of Silver there being but very small Sums Recd acct. the Revenues from March to Septr but we may now flatter ourselves with Silver to a large Amount being soon paid into your Treasury thro that Channel which we hope will enable us to make the necessary Payments & promote a Circulation essential to the Trade of the Place

83 In the 59th Para of your General Letter of the 16th March You Removed from us the only doubt which Existed concerning the Expediency of Recalling this Gold Currency since we were fully convinced of the necessity of adopting such a measure & [were?] only withheld from carrying it into Execution from the Consideration of the Loss which would ensue to our Employers

84 Happy to find that your generous mode of thinking on this Subject had enabled us to Relieve the Colony from the Hardship under which it labored & willing to demonstrate our hearty desire & earnest endeavors to Remove them We came to the Resolution

of calling in all the Gold Mohurs of the New Currency & abolishing the Establishment & of giving Interest Notes payable at the Expiration of twelve Months for all Sums above & of the Value of 1000 Rupees paid into the Treasury within the Space of fifteen days after the Publication of this Resolution We were induced to Limit the Period of fifteen days from an apprehension that there were private Mints who might take the Advantage of this Juncture to encrease the Coinage.

85. The Persons who Contracted to supply your New Works with Bricks for last Year failed in the Performance of their Contract But upon a Representation of Circumstances that were the occasion of it which were principally Accidents that could not be foreseen or avoided & this Representation being confirmed by the opinion of Mr. Russell one of the Members of the Committee of Works We Agreed to Remit conditionally the Penalty they had incurred.

86. In our Letter of the 22nd Febr'y. we informed you we were in hopes to lay before you a clear State of your Revenue from the 24 Pergunnahs the Town of Calcutta & 15 Dhees but notwithstanding every endeavor on the Part of the Collector General & the most positive Injunctions to the Jemadars they have not yet Delivered in the particular Acct. of the Collections we have made so that We cannot present you with it in so clear & Satisfactory a manner as we could wish We therefore thought it necessary & for your Interest to continue the mode of Collection until the Collector is able to accomplish the design for which they were put under his Charge which was to ascertain as nearly as possible the Real value of the Lands This Resolution We were induced to take from the Advantages your power derived from this mode of Collection as will more fully appear upon a Reference to the Collector Generals Letter entered in our Cons: of the 29th Augst.

87. On the 15th Augst. We took into Consideration the Collector Generals Letter Relative to the Burdwan Revenues & in order to guide us in our opinion the Gentn. of the Select Committee laid before us a Letter from you to their Board on the present Subject dated in May 1766 It then appears Gentn. to be your pleasure that a Malguzar should be settled with the Rajah from its being the Established Right of other Hereditary Zemindars of these Provinces.—

88. We then proceeded to an Examination into the Accts. of the Burdwan Revenues from whence it appears that the Amount of the Revenues expected to be Rec'd for the present year will be

Sicca Rupees . . . . .	4353923 9 0
From which deducting the Charges Zemindarry & charges Collections amounting S Rs .	468692 3 10
There will Remain a Nett Revenue of S Rs	38,85,2,31 5 2

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It also appears from the Accts of the Collections of 1st Year that out of the whole Statement they fall short only the Sum of 58,8321 17

89 From these Considerations therefore that it is as conformable to your Intentions to have a Malguzarry settled with the Rajah & that according to the Calculation we have made a Nett Revenue of 3885231 5 2 will accrue We thought there might be justly demanded & accordingly proposed the Sum of Sicca Rs 38,00,000 for the Malguzarry of the present Year which will leave 85231 5 2 in the Rajahs Hands as a Compensation for the Risk of Collections For the Rest of our Resolutions on this Subject we must beg leave to Refer you to our Consultation where this Subject is discussed All that we shall add is that we hope & doubt not the settling a Malguzarry with the Rajah will meet with your approbation & prove Satisfactory to him —

90 In our Consultation of the 25 Augst We entered into a further discussion of the Collector Generals Letter Relative to the Calcutta Lands & We hope you will pardon our Referring you to our Cons for any Information you are desirous to obtain on this Subject until our General Letter under the Established Heads

91 The want of Workmen to carry on your Fortifications with that dispatch that is necessary in so essential a Work hath been long & frequently complained of In order to obviate this Complaint which is chiefly to be attributed to the Numbers employed by private Persons we have been under the necessity of ordering an entire Stop to be put to all Private Buildings after the 1st Novr next This measure seems Rather Oppressive but there is a necessity that private convenience should be given up to Public Utility

92 Want of Materials Chunam in particular hath Retarded our operations a good deal But we hope we have effectually provided against this cause of delay for the ensuing year by the Proposals We have Ordered our Committee of Works to accept for contracting for this Article by which means & the provision making by the Government at Syllet We flatter ourselves we shall be much better Supplied than by any other method & save you a considerable Expence



93. You were acquainted in the 13th Parag: of our Letter under date the 22nd Feby. of the Scandalous & Shameful behavior of Capt. John Richman Commander of the Cuddalore Schooner & that by a series of unjustifiable misconduct he had frustrated a scheme set on foot by motives of Humanity & which if properly executed might have saved the Lives of several poor Wretches who must either have perished or are languishing in a State of Wretchedness & misery This Person arrived here a few weeks after our final dispatches of that Season & all the Punishment we could inflict We did then—which was withdrawing the Companys Protection & ordering home.

94. Notwithstanding our Repeated orders to Mr. Wm. Bolts to Repair to England he has obstinately Refused to comply with & has hitherto eluded them on our Cons: of the 18th April He sent in [.....] Letter complaining of some of his Agents & Gomastahs being confined & Requesting their Release but as he had from a series of misconduct & bad Behaviour been deemed unworthy of & forfeited all Title to the Companys Protection & it had been accordingly withdrawn from [.....] We could by no means think of interfering or Interesting ourselves in the Affair's of a man not entitled to our countenance We therefore treated this Application with the contempt it deserved & took no Notice of it further than giving it a place on our Records the only Regard We then Resolved should be shewn to any future Letters he might write to us.

95. You have already Gentn. been so fully acquainted with the Turbulent Character of this Man that we shall not trouble you with a Minute Acct. of the opprobrious abusive & insolent Behavior we have met with from him but which you will have an Idea of from perusing the Several Protests & Letters he has from time to time sent in to us.

96. There are some Circumstances of his Conduct which have lately Appeared that we cannot dispense with acquainting you of as they will Represent the Character of the Man in much stronger Lights than it has ever yet been seen in & convince you of the Absolute necessity of Compelling so dangerous a Person to quit the Settlement:

97. Mr. Fenwicke one of your Junior Servants was connected with Mr. Bolts. This Young Man was employed in your Secretary's Office & so far forgot his Duty to his Employers that he gave Mr. Bolts a Copy of a Minute delivered in by Col. Smith the 18 May We leave you Hon'ble Gentn. to Judge what Arguments & Persuasions

must have been made use of to prevail on this unexperienced Youth to be guilty of such notorious Breach of Trust & you will doubtless at the same time perceive that the inevitable Ruin of this Young Mans Prospects in life was no consideration when put in Competition with the Accomplishment of Mr. Bolts Views.

98. This Minute Mr. Bolts layed before the Grand Jury at our Quarter Sessions & prepared an Address upon the Occasion which is entered in our Consultation of the 30th May.

99. Tho' much may be urged in Defence of Youth when attacked by the Sollicitations of an Artful & designing Man yet so flagrant a breach of Duty as was shewn in this instance so open a violation of Trust & Fidelity. The necessity of deterring & putting others on their guard were Arguments too strong to be put aside & We accordingly dismissed Mr. Fenwicke your Service & ordered him to proceed home by the Ships of this Season.

100. We must now lay before you Gentn. a Circumstance which merits your particular Attention as it appears to us to be of such Nature that we think it ought to terminate in a Court of Justice The President acquainted us that Mr. Baber when Sub-Secretary had Reported to him that Mr. Bolts instead of duly executing the Covenants you sent out prohibiting your Servants Receiving Presents did elude Your Orders & instead of Subscribing to them himself employed a Writer to Sign his name for him—This Circumstance came to Mr. Baber's Knowledge from Mr. Bolts endeavouring some time afterwards to persuade him to be guilty of a Breach of his Duty & to deliver up the Covenants to him which were entrusted to his Charge that he might execute them over again. The President laying this before us We called on Mr. Baber to Relate all he knew of the matter & we beg leave to Refer you to his Declaration on Oath entered on Cons. 5th Sept. for the Particulars.

101. From this Relation it appears that Mr. Bolts was very sensible of the unjustifiable Step he had taken & was very earnest & Sollicitous to prevent the consequences of it by the Method he took to prevail on the Sub-Secretary to get the Covenants out of his hands a Regular Enquiry was made into the Matter as appears upon our Consultation of the 5th inst. & Mr. Bolts defence to the Charge is annexed to the Letter addressed to you which goes a Number in the Packet.

102. You will Observe from the date of this Letter of Mr. Bolts it was laid before us too late to be particularly Replied to by this Ship but we shall not fail Answering it very fully in our next Advices In the mean time however the President desired it might be Recorded as his Character is particularly Reflected upon that he

solemnly declares every Assertion contained in Mr. Bolts Letter to the Honble the Court of Directors which tends to Reflect on his Character is infamously scandalous & false that he shall particularly answer to Mr. Bolts Accusation when more at leisure as he cannot do it at present without Retarding the dispatch of the Ship.

103. A very particular & we may add a most unparalleled Instance of Mr. Bolts Insolence the Defiance he bids to both your & our Orders & the Contempt with which he treats the Government is fully exemplified in a Letter he took upon him to write to Mahomed Reza Cawn & which is entered in our Cons: of the 15th Augst. He has here assumed a Priviledge you have vested in your President only & he has here dared to dictate in the most imperious & insolent stile to one of the Ministers of the Government.

104. Such Gentn. has been the Conduct of Mr. Bolts & there are many other Circumstances which for want of time we must defer until the next Ship That a Man who has thus trampled upon the Authority of Government who has violated his fidelity to his employers who has endeavored to Seduce your Servants from their Duty & who has in Multiplied Instances proved himself unworthy of the Compys. Protection should be compelled to quit the Settlement Admits not of a moments doubt & Confident that you Gentn. will see the necessity of this Measure which is taken for the Support of Government in the same Light you did that taken in 1766 with Regard to the Officers We Assure ourselves the Resolution We have taken of sending Mr. Bolts home will also meet with your Approbation since we consider it absolutely & essentially necessary to the Peace Order & Tranquillity of your Settlement & throughout the Companys Possessions in Bengal.

105. We should not have deferred so long carrying into Execution our Resolution of the 5th Novr. 1767 but having wrote you very fully concerning the Refractory Behavior of Messrs Duffield & Robertson & Requesting you in a very earnest & particular manner to inform us of the Extent of Authority to be used in similar cases We expected by this Years Shipping to have Rec'd very ample Instructions for our future Conduct on so

Consn. 30 May                      important a Point however the approbation you have expressed at the Measures pursued for sending home those Officers have determined us to come to the foregoing Resolution with Regard to Mr. Bolts.

106. Mr. Richard Wilts your late Sub Accomptant departed this life the 28th May & Mr. William Harwood having by his Assiduity & Attention fully Qualified himself for the discharge of that Office We appointed him to it But upon the Arrival of Mr. Darrel that Gentn. was agreeable

Consn. 1st Sept.

to your Orders nominated to the Station of Sub Accountant the Mr Harwood continues in the Office to Ballance the Books of 1767 as you have directed & Mr Darrel is to commence those of 1768

107 We are happy at the pleasure you express in Receiving our General Books up to their due Period & We are still more so at the

Prospects of their being Regularly kept up &  
 Consn 1st June We hope that in future You will have no occasion to Remark on our being Remiss in not forwarding the Books of our Subordinates since We have Repeated our Injunctions to have them sent down to us Regularly & in due time with the most positive assurances of our highest displeasure if these Orders are not strictly obeyed

108 The Regulations & Alterations you have proposed in your General Books shall be strictly Attended to & your Remarks upon them fully Replied to in our future Advices at

Consn [1st June?] present We can only add upon this Head that We have furnished the Accountant with your Orders

109 In consequence of our Resolution to Abolish the Gold Currency it became necessary to annual our former Orders of the 11th Janry to write off the Money borrowed at Interest to Acct Deposits as Interest is to be granted on all Bonds from the 6th Sepr the day of the advertisement of the Gold Currency We accordingly did so & ordered the Accts of Money borrowed at Interest to Remain as formerly

110 It was with great Satisfaction that We Read your Sentiments upon the Steady faithful & Soldier like Conduct of the Field Officers during the Combination of the Officers of the Army 1766

111 It was with no less Satisfaction We found that you had been pleased to bury in Oblivion the Conduct of all those Officers who after being dismissed had experienced the Lenity of this Board by Readmission into the Service & that you had granted some Allowances over & above the present Established pay of the Captains & Subaltern Officers of the Army All which was issued in Public Orders & transmitted by the Town Major to the Army

112 The Regulations for the Payment of your Grtuitiy was fixed as follows The Captns & Subaltern Officers are to draw for it in the following manner

To a Captain	P Month	Thirty Six	Sunt	Rs
a Lieutenant	do	Twenty four		do
an Ensign	Do	Twelve		do

Officers are to draw the Gratuity according to the Rank they bear in the Army. No Officer that now Receives or may hereafter Receive the Indulgence of double Batta is to draw for the Gratuity while he draws double Batta.

113. Mr. Archibald Staples whom you appointed a Writer last Year arrived in the Adml. Watson & was Stationed in the Military Pay Master General's Office.

114. We are sorry to acquaint you with the deaths of the following gentn. in your Service Messrs. Woodward, Draycott, Page, Eynard & Walton.

115. The first of these Gentn. held the Office of Sub Import Ware House Keeper which we bestowed on Mr. Edward Stephenson. The Second was Deputy Pay Master General for which Mr. Keighly solicited This Gentleman it is true had incurred our displeasure from his Negligence as you were acquainted in our Letter of the 30th March 1767 But as the Resentment shewn to him seems to have had the good effect intended & he has behaved with diligence & Assiduity in the Office he has since held we were induced to confer this Post on him.

116. The Duplicates of the Covenants prohibiting your Servant from Receiving Presents & which were intended to be deposited here having been by mistake sent home in the Norfolks Packet We Request that they may be Returned by the first opportunity.

117. The Surgeons Major of the Army having been hitherto considered in every Gratuity to the Army Col: Smith very justly observed to us the Hardship of their present Situation & described it to us in a Minute entered upon our Cons: of the 27th June. As it is a Subject well Worth our Consideration We shall hereafter take farther notice of it as we are well convinced of the necessity of every Reasonable encouragement being given to Men of Abilities in that Profession.

118. In consequence of your Orders that the Chief of Cossimbuzar & the Resident at the Durbar should no longer be held by one Person We appointed Mr. Wm. Aldersey to the Former And that Gentn. having Requested our opinion upon some points We thought it necessary to draw a Line between the Authority of each & accordingly decided That all Persons employed in the Provision of the Investment & the Management of that Branch should be under the authority & direction of the Chief of Cossimbuzar. That all Applications to the Nabob should be thro' the Channel of the Resident at the Durbar.

That the Chief of Cossimbuzar & the Resident at the Durbar

should each of them have additional Power to grant Dustucks in their Respective Departments.

119. For want of proper Regulations the Expences incurred in employing Surveyors have been very extravagant particularly those which appeared in Acct. Disbursements laid before us in Cons: the 30th June & it being Submitted to our consideration whether they should not be put up on some more Regular footing We Referred this Subject to the Commander in Chief, Mr. Alexander & the M. Pay Master Genl. to fix upon a Plan These Gentlemen accordingly took it into their Consideration & having laid down one which appeared to us extremely Judicious & proper It was adopted & carried into Execution.

120. Mr. Simeon Droz having Represented to us that his Constitution would not permit him to pay that attention to the Desk the Laborious employ of Secretary Requires & Requested our Permission to Resign We accordingly granted it him & Mr. Edward Baber the then Assistant Secry. was appointed his Successor Mr. Thos. Henchman was Appointed Assistant Secry. & Mr. James Irwin Sub Secry.

121. We are very sensible how acceptable it would have been to you to have Rec'd by this Ship such an Acct. as you have directed to be drawn out in the 55th para: of your Letter under date the 20th Novr. 1767 And therefore extremely sorry it is not in our Power to send it We beg leave however to Assure you Gentn. that in this as well as in every other Instance where your Interest is concerned your Commands shall be scrupulously & implicitly Obeyed & We hope by our next Advices to furnish you with this Statement for which purpose the necessary Orders have been issued.

122. Mr. William Berry having Represented to us that he had the misfortune to be in a Vessel that was cast away by which Accident he had lost all his Property & amongst it was a Compys. Bond he had purchased in London of Mr. Emerson Tiddy of the value of Current Rs. 3000 bearing date 20th Janry. 1766 & Requested we would Indulge him with the Payment of it We ordered the Sub Accomptant to inform us if such a Bond stood upon your Books & he acquainted us there did.

123. Altho' Mr. Berry produced very Authentic Proof of his title to this Bond & was willing to give every indemnification we might Require that it should not be demanded again Yet as you have been pleased to Order in your General Letter under date the 3rd March 1768 all Circumstances of this kind to be Referred to you We acquainted Mr. Berry that giving you this Indemnification & sending home the Proofs he had furnished us with was all we

could do in the Affair accordingly the Proofs he brought in Support of his claim Attested on Oath go a Number in this Packet.

124. On the 16th Augst. 1766 the Committee of Inspection sent [.....]Orders to the Chief Engineer for New Modelling this Books which have in part been complied with but the difficulties he has found in estimating each Constituent Part of the Fortifications in proportion to the General Amount have been from time to time Represented as the Reason for this part of the Orders not being

complied with a little while ago an Estimate of  
 Consn. 28 July. the Charge of each part of the Fort was made out & laid before us by the Committee of Works who Requested our directions whether separate Heads should be e[ntered?] in the Engineers Books for the different Members of the Works Agreeable to an Arrangement they then laid before us.

125. The Plan of opening seperate Heads in the Engineers Books We entirely Approved but some Alterations appearing Necessary We altered them accordingly The Form which is proposed for these Books to be Modelled by is entered in our Cons: of the 4th July & was sent to the Committee of Works to be put in Execution.

126. From a Representation of the President of the behavior of Mr. George Bright one of your Servants who had contrary to the Governors Friendly Admonitions & in direct Opposition to his most positive Orders clandestinely married one Mrs. Ivie a very improper Match We suspended him the Service

Consn. 4th Augst. & Mr. Thomas Hewitt & William Pye having been privy to this Step of Mr. Brights we severely Reprehended them for concealing this matter but particularly the former who was much more culpable than the latter & who from his Age & standing on the Service had neither inexperience nor Youth to plead in his behalf as the other Person had.

127. Colonel Sir Robt. Barker transmitted to us the Proceedings of a General Court Martial held at Allahabad for the Trial of

Lieut: Robt Lister Frederick Gregore & Albert  
 Consn. 11th Augst. Mace Private The Sentences that were passed We approved but as the Colonel at the same time that he sent us these Proceedings had also Represented some Circumstances on behalf of Frederick Gregore which greatly extenuated his fault We considered him as an Object of Mercy & therefore pardoned him Lieut Robt. Lister's Conduct appeared to us highly Culpable & We therefore put a Bar to his further Rise in the Army until his future behavior should merit its being taken off.

128. The Bullocks that were provided for the Service of your

Army by the Government having proved so extremely bad that We were obliged to dismiss them. The Contractor  
 Consn. [15th] Augst. Represented the Hardship he labored under from this Order & in consideration of the Bullocks having been disposed of We absolved him from that part of his Contract wherein he Agrees to accept of & defray the expence  
 Consn. [6<sup>th</sup>] Septm. of maintaining those Bullocks an Indulgence he has since assured us he is very sensible of.

129. The Gentn. employed as Agents for the Navy Donation made an Application to us for the Payment of it. They had been drawn upon by Capt. Alleck for the Amount of his Share We had directed the State of those Ballances out of which you were pleased to Order this fund should be paid to be enquired into on the Receipt of your Commands under date 21st Novr. 1766 so much of the old Ballances during the time of Myr Jaffiers Government as have been Collected must be brought to the Credit of the Dewannee Revenues This Sum to be paid to the Navy must in Fact come out of your Treasury & we shall accordingly discharge it as soon as the State of it will admit.

130. The Deaths that have happened of your several Servants during the Course of this Year & none having been sent out hath occasioned a want of Junior Servants at the  
 Consn. [...5th] Augst Presidency & most of the Offices are in distress for want of Assistants to conduct the Business The Military Pay Master General which is a very laborious one hath been very particularly so and at his sollicitation We have permitted him to employ monthly Assistants.

131. As you have been pleased in your Late Commands of the 16th March to vest in the Board the sole Power of concluding Treaties the Power over the Military & all disbursements of Money it will be necessary for the Committee to lay before us from time to time important Matters which may require the utmost Secrecy & as they had present Affairs of the utmost importance to communicate to us. It was agreed in Cons: 22nd Augst. to Resolve ourselves into a Secret Department to sit as such on all Affairs where Secrecy may be Required & We have transmitted you the only Consultation that has been held in that Department a number in the Packet.

132. For Reasons assigned in this separte Consultation & as there is a seat in Council vacant by the departure of Mr. Alexander Campbell to England We appointed Mr. Francis Charlton to fill up the Vacancy & he hath been accordingly Recalled from Chittagong.

133. Lieut: Colonel Charles Pemble having been informed of the Retreat your Troops had made from Mangalore & knowing your



Intentions that he should Return to Bombay offered his Services to proceed thither immediately as he thought it a duty particularly incumbent on him at such Juncture We were much pleased at this as we have been at many other instances of this Officers Zeal & Attachment to your Service & We desired him to Repair to the Presidency as soon as possible in order that he might go to Bombay by the first Opportunity.

134. Mr. James Lennox the Chief Mate of the Admiral Watson having Represented to us that some Affairs of most material Consequence to his Welfare Required his Returning to England

as soon as possible Requested our Permission  
 Consn. 29 Augst. to be discharged but at the same time offered to continue in his Station notwithstanding the great detriment it would be to his fortune if the Companys Service Required it of him—As

Capt. Griffin had no Objection to this Appli-  
 Consn. 6 Sept. cation we complied with his Request & Ordered the Wages that were due to him to be paid.

135. We also Rec'd an Application of the same Nature from Mr. John Wilmot second & Mr. R. Parkes the third Mate of the same Ship to whom we also granted the same permission on condition only that they Returned to England.

136. The Master Attendant laid before us a Request he had Rec'd from four of the Voluntiers (*sic*) you have appointed in the Marine Establishment for an Increase of Pay From a sense of the Justness of their Request & a conviction of their present Allowance being Totally inadequate to the unavoidable expence of a bare Subsistence We complied with their Request & Augmented their Pay to forty Rupees P Month.

137. We have deferred coming to any further Resolution Relative to your Military Establishments than settling the Rank of the Officers as we cannot yet form a Plan till We can ascertain the Number of Troops we shall Receive at present only 700 out of the 1200 you have sent out for our Presidency have arrived & all your Ships for Coast & Bay have imported.

138. You will perceive that before your Order arrived to fix the Rank of Major Stibbert Morgan Hill Polier & Fischar that Major Morgan had been promoted to the Rank of Lieut Colonel but in consequence of your Instructions We have given Rank to Lieut Colonels Sempel & Leslie prior to Lieut Col. Morgan for as this Gentn. had been preferred We could not with Propriety Reduce his Rank & therefore have determined he shall always Remain the Youngest Lieut Colonel in your Service.

139 Altho We are very sensible of the Propriety of your General Restrictions that Foreigners shall not Rise in your Service to superior Rank than Major yet there may be instances where particular Merit deserves some Consideration & We wish to point out to you Major Polier as an Officer very worthy to be excepted from your General Orders This Gentleman entered into your Service when a Youth He has served you ten Years & Recd several Marks of Approbation from this Board We hope you will not think any Inconvenience can arise to your Service from his being promoted to the Rank of Lieut Colonel & that you will be pleased to grant him this Rank next to Lieut Col Morgan which is what he would have obtained but for the Bar you have been pleased to put upon his Preferment

140 The same Spirit of Justice induces us to plead in behalf of Capt Duff of the Artillery In the course of promotion he had been Appointed to that Rank before your Orders came to us but on the Arrival of Captains Rosatt & Burrett to conform to your Intentions we appointed those Officers to take Prior Rank to Capt Duff but as this Gentn has ever been esteemed a very good Officer & has been formerly Wounded in your Service We are induced to hope you will Remove the Bar to his Preferment & Restore him to that Rank which he otherwise would have acquired

141 As we have great doubts whether We can legally grant a Warrant for holding General Courts Martial to a Governor not Possessed of a seperate Military Command & [ ] for him to go up to a part of the Country where the Army is Stationed We beg leave to Refer this Point to your decision & to Request your Instructions upon it

142 We have Appointed Mr John Reed Provisional Chief  
 Couns 6 Septr of Chittagong in the Room of Mr Charlton  
 18 July And as the Gentn of that Factory have  
 6 Septr Applied to us for an Assistant We appointed  
 Mr Henry Walter in that Capacity

143 We informed you in the 74th Paragraph of this Letter that the Committee of Enquiry at Cossimbuzar had thought it necessary to suspend Messrs Williamson Forbes & Palk We confirmed this suspension & ordered them down to the Presidency & have Appointed Mr Richard Barwell Second in Council at that Factory

144 You very justly Remark Gentn in the 40th Para of your Letter of the 20th Novr 1767 that the Number of Free Merchants at Bengall may be very prejudicial to the Compys Affairs & We are extremely glad to find it is your Resolution not to send out any more But permit us here to observe to you Gentn that you counteract

the good consequences of this Resolution by allowing Free Mariners to come out & we must add that as long as you suffer any Persons to come to India who are not in your Service let their Denomination be what it may the very Evil you mean to Remove will still exist.

145. As Vellum and Spare Hoops besides Punches for Piercing Vellum are articles much wanted for the use of the Powder Mills We Request you would send us a supply of them by the first Opportunity that Offers We have sent you a Muster of Powder which makes a Number in the Packet & is sent apart in a Tin Box.

146. In our General Letter P Northington We Requested you to send out a Number of Brass Amusettes which were intended to be attached to our Sepoy Corps You have not approved of our proposal & we are sorry to Observe you have not sent us any Supply of Light Brass Field Pieces We Particularly Request that you will by the first Conveyance send us 12 Brass 6 Pounders 12 Twelves & 4 eighteens. The Necessity of this application will fully appear when you are informed that at present we have not at the Presidency ten Field Pieces in our Store Houses We cannot conclude this important Article without Reminding you how very defective those Guns cast by Gilpin have proved as will fully appear by the Report transmitted a Number in the Lord Hollands Packet.

147. The frequent inability of Mr. Parry our Chaplain to perform the duties of the Church the necessity of preserving Religion & Decorum in the Settlement & the little Prospect We have left of Your complying with our Request of sending Chaplains from Europe this Season were Reasons that induced the President to desire Sir Charles Hudson Commander of the Talbot would permit Mr. Yates a Clergyman whom he had brought out as a Tutor to his Son who is come abroad with him to Remain here as he bears a very worthy Character & is highly spoken of by every person of his acquaintance.

148. Sir Charles Hudson having acquiesced with the President's Request & Mr. Yates also assented  
 Consn. [13?] Septr. We have entertained that Gentn. as a Chaplain on this Establishment.

149. Mr. Robt. Maddison by his Assiduity & Attention to the Persian Language having made himself Master of it & having discharged the duty of Persian Translator entirely to the Satisfaction of the President & also of Col. Smith whilst he was with the Army We think it a Justice due to his Merit to Recommend him to your Particular Notice.

150. By the Lord Holland We acquainted you that a present

of two Lacks of Rupees had been tendered to Col Smith by his Majesty which was Refused until your Sentiments could be known on the Subject & that in the mean while the Teap should Remain as a deposit with the President

151 We by no means have altered the Sentiments we then expressed Regarding Presents in General tho the Priviledge Of Admitting them on particular cases might possibly strengthen the Subordination of the Military to the Civil Colonel Smiths unwearied attention however to Reduce the Expences as well as to the Discipline of the Army merits every Mark of Esteem in our power From this consideration & encouraged by your Regard to Merit in the similar instance to Col Munro which has been communicated to us by the Select Committee We have at Col Smiths particular Request consented to let him have the use of the Money giving his Bond for the same with two unquestionable Securities until your Orders arrive in Answer to our advices P Lord Holland

152 We are further induced to this as the greatest Part of Col Smiths Fortune is dead in the Hands of the Nabob of Arcot which in the Present Scarcity of Money is of Consideration & as your Interest is no ways concerned nor the Spirit of your Orders deviated from We flatter ourselves this Step will meet your Approval

153 As soon as We had taken our Resolution to dispatch the Adml Watson for England the latter end of last Month We thought it necessary to acquaint the Gentn at Madrass with it in Order that they might avail themselves of so early an opportunity of transmitting the important Advices they must have to communicate to you they accordingly sent a Packet under your Address to be forwarded from hence which makes a Number in ours

154 By this Ship the Valentine We have licenced Sundry diamonds & Precious Stones to the Value of CRs 70566 5 6 of which the Particulars will Appear by the Manifest in the Packet

155 We have Laden on her & consigned to you Sundry Goods & Merchandize amount to CRs 852600—the particulars of which are agreeable to the Invoice & first Bill of Lading

156 We have also Laden on her Sundry Stores for the use of your island at St Helena amounting to CRs 1413 2 as P Invoice & Bills of Lading enclosed to the Governor & Council

We are with the greatest Respect

Honble Sirs

Your most Faithful & humble Servants  
H Verelst/John Cartier/Richd Smith/  
Richd Becher/Claud Russell/Charles  
Floyer

Fort William  
13th Sept 1768

*Postscript:*—Since closing our Letter some new Circumstances have occurred which being of Importance we beg leave to acquaint you of.

The Gentn. of the Select Committee having informed us that the Admiral Watson was intended to be sent to Madrass & Bombay & having informed us they had Rec'd some Consn. [...9th] Sept. further pressing Applications from the Gentn. of the former Presidency for an additional Supply of Money we ordered five Lacks of Rupees in Gold to be sent on board her & We embraced this opportunity of sending to that Presidency twelve Bales of Baftaes for Chintzing & to the Gentn. at Bombay we consigned five thousand Mds. of their Proportion of Salt Petre.

Capt. Purvis being called before the Board & acquainted with our design to send Mr. Bolts to Europe on board his Ship by force if he would not embark without it Capt. Purvis Consn. [...9] Sept. urged many doubts concerning the legality of his Receiving Mr. Bolts on Board the Valentine when sent against his own consent In Justice to him we did not hesitate as your Agents to offer him a Bond of Indemnification for his obedience to these our Orders To our great Surprise he did not think such Bond a sufficient Indemnification doubting how far the Compy. would in this case acknowledge the acts of their Agents He Requested from us as Individuals separate Bonds of Indemnification So convinced are we of the necessity of sending this dangerous Man out of the Settlement that we should not have hesitated granting him even this exordinary Request but we could not consent to make that a private Act which we Judge ourselves authorized to carry into execution by virtue of Acts of Parliament & as it would also give this litigious man a pretence to arraign our Conduct as proceeding from Motives of private Resentment instead of Public Utility.

If We entertained a Moments Doubt but that you would Support your Servants in all Acts which they undertake for the better Administration of your Affairs we should on this occasion particularly point out the necessity of indemnifying Capt. Purvis This case you must consider will Stand as a Precedent to all future times & if this Act does not meet with your steady Support it is impossible your Administration should ever have it in their power to send home any person whatever tho' you yourselves have lately had occasion to direct us to enforce the Execution of such Measures.

As a corroborating Proof of what We have alleged concerning the Turbulent Character of Mr. Bolts & his Factious Attempts to sow the seeds of discontent in the Settlement We have sent you a Copy of a Paper which was affixed upon the door of the Council House & at several other Public Places This was seen by many

Persons in the Settlement amongst others some of your Servants whose declaration upon Oath before the Mayor of their having seen such a Paper makes a Number in the Packet.

The vacancies that Remained to be filled up at Cossimbuzar in consequence of the Suspension of Messrs. Forbes & Palk We this day took into our Consideration, And as We thought Mr. Grueber in a Letter entered on our Cons. the 19[Instant] had exculpated himself from the censure you Passed upon him in the 65 para. of Your Letter of the 16th March the only objection to his being sent to a Subordinate We appointed him third & Mr. George Hurst fourth in Council at that Factory.

The Collector General having for your better Information sent in an Explanation of the Bengal Words that are introduced in his Letters on the Subject of the Burdwan Revenues & Calcutta Lands we have transmitted the same to you in this Packet.

The Term limited for Receiving all Gold Mohurs into the Treasury that should be tendered in consequence of our Order for Abolishing the Gold Currency expired this day & the Sub Treasurer has Reported to us that the Number Rec'd into your Treasury here amounts to 120161...4...6.

The President laid before us a Letter he this day Rec'd from the Chief at Dacca concerning Mr. Bolts assisting the Dutch in procuring their Investment & acquainted us he has for some time past had intimation of the Subject on which it treats But not having been able to procure any Authentic proofs Regarding it he deferred Recording it until this time he is still endeavouring to gain every other Information in his Power which you shall be fully acquainted with in our future Advices in the mean time We beg leave to send you Copy of this a Number in the Packet.

Fort William  
the 19th Septemr. 1768.

We are  
Honble Sirs  
Your faithful Humble Servts.  
(Signed as before)

## LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1768

*Deportation of Bolts*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

We had just closed Our dispatches by the Valentine when we had the honor to receive your letter of the 5th April acquainting us with the safe arrival of the Lord Holland at Falmouth—This therefore serves purposely to acknowledge the receipt of that Letter and we hope this Ship will be so fortunate in her Voyage as the Lord Holland has been, and that we shall likewise have the pleasure to be informed by this time next year that these hopes are confirmed.—

We beg leave to add a circumstance relative to Mr. Bolts that has happened since closing our dispatches—We informed you in our Letter We had directed him to be sent by force to England if he refused to comply with our orders—As we imagined, he did refuse to comply with them; and Captain Robert Coxe was ordered to seize him with a guard, and carry him on Board the Cuddalore Schooner, which was prepared to receive him & his necessaries; but he was particularly cautioned that in performing this service he should force no doors, locks, or Windows and use as little violence as the Nature of the Case would admit—Mr. Bolts has been accordingly conducted under a guard on board the Cuddalore Schooner and is now proceeding to be embarked on board the Valentine in order to be sent to England; and we must beg leave to observe to you Gentlemen that it appears from the whole tenour of his conduct that his aim has been to reduce us to the necessity of taking the measure; he had prepared himself for the voyage and had we are informed all his papers and every necessary ready in order to embark when he was seized by Captain Coxe—

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Yr. faithful & Obt.  
humble Servants

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Richard Smith  
Richard Becher/Claud Russell/Charles  
Floyer/Fras. Charlton.

Fort William  
24th Sept. 1768.

## LETTER DATED 25 SEPTEMBER 1768

*A plea for direct correspondence between the President and the Court of Directors—dispute between the Governor and the Commander in Chief on the question of preeminence of civil authority—the powers of Hindusthan and recent changes in their affairs—Smith's suspicions of Shuja ud Doula unfounded—reasons for the declining and exhausted state of Bengal—no measures taken for restricting French credit—increase of investment—reasons for the immediate repeal of gold currency—a plea for the re establishment of the old plan of salt monopoly for the servants of the Company*

**T**O the Hon ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon ble the United Co of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Gentlemen

1 I had the honor to address you under date the 28 March by the Ship Admiral Pococke and endeavored then to give you as full a Statement of your Political and Commercial concerns as my Health and a Short respite from Public business would Permit—I have the honor to transmit a duplicate of that letter in the Present dispatch and will proceed on the same plan to lay plainly before you every matter which seems worthy of your Knowledge and attention

2 I have always deemed the direct correspondence between the President and the Court of Directors of the most serious import to the Company but having the Primary Superintance (*sic*) of the several departments he must be best acquainted with the immediate springs of every material event And because as an individual he can communicate his sentiments with that Freedom & unreserve which the delicacy of public addresses will not with propriety admit it has ever been My principal and I trust will be ever my practice to give truth as I find it even where that truth might appear unfavorable to myself or disagreeable to you I look upon myself as accountable for all my public acts to you to my King and to my Country and will never disguise facts to Court approbation or conceal them from an apprehension of Censure—For this reason I hope my Present Representations will have that weight in your Opinions which I could have wished our Public ones had been honored with on some late consequential points—Your Governor and Council I may safely affirm never merited the preference which seems to have been given to private authorities and I am persuaded a short reflection will



easily evince how injurious such a suspicion is to your servants: how unworthy of your impartiality and how dangerous to the Company's Affairs in General—The intelligence of individuals can be derived only from Partial Lights, and communicated mainly with Private views. Your Servants on the Contrary are immediately Present on the scene of Action, they have free access to every source of information, and can neither aggrandize or vilify advantages or Losses without certainly of detection and forfeiture (*sic*) of good name—Whatever benefits therefore may be expected to Accrue from a Comparison of Public and Private Advices they will be found by experience to be no balance to their inconveniencies—Such a jealous attention to their Actions may perhaps prove a curb to a corrupt Administration but it will certainly furnish them with a plausible excuse, while a manifestation of distrust will inevitably filter the Activity and resolution of the most upright Government—As your Servants we are accountable for every Act and Measure: But it is surely hard that our Conduct and integrity should be arraigned on the ill grounded Testimony of sanguine or discontented men—I am sensible how much the delicacy of your situation, and the violence of opposition must have influenced you on this point, and I hope you will excuse my warmth on the occasion, a little time will either justify or condemn us, and I trust the present dispatch will demonstrate whose Representations have been most authentic and impartial.

3. I am sorry to be obliged to remark an interruption in the harmony of our Debates, and Resolutions from the disputes which have occurred between Colonel Smith and myself concerning his right to the Supreme Military Authority: and the more so as they have engaged too much of that time which might have been dedicated to more important purposes. Nevertheless as my preconceived ideas so happily correspond with the orders you have thought it expedient to issue, concerning the Governor's Pre-eminence in all Departments and as my views tended solely to the Support of the Civil Authority, and not to any extension of my own Power I flatter myself you will approve my steady opposition to the Colonels claim and will be induced by a reflection on what might have been the Consequences of such an uncertainty in another Posture of Affairs positively and particularly to preserve the precise and definite line for the Civil and Military Authority.—

4. I had the honour to transmit you in my former Letter a concise but accurate detail of the Present state of the several Powers of Hindostan and will continue it by acquainting you with the different Revolutions which have happened in their respective affairs since my last address.

5. The King Shah Allam remains much in the same situation

both as to his affairs and dispositions the memory of what is past continues to tender him fearful of forming Hindostan connections And his late experience encreases daily his confidence in our good faith & Aattachment—Formed as I have observed rather for private Life than a throne he insensibly begins to acquiesce in the enjoyment of Competence and Independency and his rooted jealousy of Sujah ul Dowlah and of his encreasing Power binds him to Us more strongly as well from apprehension as from necessity—He professes on all occasions and I believe sincerely to be influenced only by the English Councils—though his reestablishment at Delhi is casually the Subject of his Conversation and Letters—Yet a reference to Colonel Barkers correspondence (No 1) will point out how far his resolutions in this matter are from being immediate or determined On our part the capital advantages we can derive on many emergencies from the Royal Sanction and the great accession of National Glory in being considered as the sole support of the Imperial Dignity are considerations which must ever oblige us to stand forth as the immediate defenders of the Throne, and never entrust his Majesty into the hands of others whose views or interests may any way interfere with the continuance of such essential advantages—I will only instance two of the most striking First while his Majesty is ever ready to comply with our requests We can at all times throw such restraints as may be politically necessary on the other Nations trading to and in India without subjecting ourselves to any National remonstrances at Home—and Secondly should any power here display hostile intentions towards us we can easily and safely counteract them, by procuring Sunnuds for their Country, in the name of some of [their?] neighbours who will always eagerly embrace every pretence of advancing their own Possessions, or Military fame for undeniable proof of this I need only recur to the late offer made by Janijy (Sir Robert Barker) of dispossessing Mahda Row of his Territories when he manifested same inclination to a rupture with us provided His Majesty would grant him Sunnuds for the Lands he, should Conquer

6 Our Correspondence debates and opinions on the views situation and increasing Power of the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah stand so fully recorded on the proceedings of the Select Committee that it may appear almost unnecessary to enter further into so extensive a subject, as however the capital facts lie very much dispersed and the Matter itself is of the first import to the Company and our own justification I will endeavour to bring the whole into one collective point of view and place the motives for the measures hitherto adopted in their genuine Light—For this purpose it will be necessary to consider first the Reasons which have been urged for of any suspicions of his intending an early rupture with us and secondly

that admitting such suspicions were well grounded how far the calling upon him for an explanation of his views before the time We resolved upon that step was necessary or warrantable.

7. On the first point I must give it as my positive opinion that no satisfactory evidence appears of the Nabob ever proposing a War with us unless we admit rumours and surmises for proofs or suppose that his increase of Force could not be made with any views to others except ourselves to illustrate this I must refer to Colonel Smith's Letters of the 16th & 19th October (when his first suspicions of the Nabob's Conduct are communicated)—The intelligence amounts to little more than an Information of his placing Dawks to the Deccan, and his curiosity concerning our Affairs there; a supposed wish for the then intended return of the Brigade and a general account of an indefinate (*sic*) augmentation of his Troops, an Apprehension of his negotiations with the Mahrattas and the Universal prevalency of the report of an approaching rupture between the Nabob and the English that the Nabob should be curious to know the transactions of the Deccan and that he should place Dawkes to bring him the earliest notice of every material event may I apprehend be as clearly accounted for, from an amicable as from a hostile intention—That the Nabob should endeavour to increase his Troops at so critical a juncture is perfectly natural and nothing dissonant to his engagements with us He knew the necessity of our weakening our Army in Bengal by large detachments to the Coast in case of any sinister accident and by this timely augmentation he made certain provision for our common security by raising troops equal to the difference of a whole brigade; The probability of his acting upon this motive will appear stronger from remarking that he made no secret of these levies to me and from his repeatedly expressing his earnest desire to unite them with our Troops—in any expedition which might be thought necessary on this quarter for a [decision?] in favor of the operations in the Deccan—The preparations themselves are also a powerful argument of his friendly intentions as from their strength and nature they must appear rather calculated to co-operate with us as Allies than to attack us as enemies

—His army at Maundy<sup>1</sup> by Colonel Smith under date the 24th November 1764 (2) is estimated at 25,000 Horse and 12000 Foot of which we cannot reckon more than 80,000 Sepoys at a Medium, from comparing his March to Lucknow to Colonel Smith's Visit at Oude and by a letter from Captain Harper to the Colonel [...] and communicated for the first time by him so late as his minute of (the 3rd August) this estimate appears to exceed rather than fall short of the truth—Only 3,500 of the Sepoys had Firelocks and his whole Artillery consisted of nine large Pieces with Field Carriages and

Col. Smith (2) 11  
Dec. 24 Nov.

eight or nine smaller ones attached to his battalions with four new ones coming from the Fierzabad Foundry. How little substantial cause of uneasiness such an hasty assemblage of Troops would give us will appear from the opinion of Colonel Sir Robert Barker your Second in Command and an Officer of approved abilities and experience who so far down as (23rd March) and after so many Months boasted encrease improvement in Arms, Artillery and discipline

declares he did not apprehend the Nabob's whole (No. 1) force is able to Cope with one brigade of our Army.—Sujah ul Dowlah has never given us reason to think him so weak or improvident as to undertake a most consequential enterprize without even a probability of success and

Colonel Smith at the very time of communicating his doubts (3) of the Nabobs is plotting any his opinion that if the Nabob is plotting any Secret Machinations they must be of a very extensive nature and he will certainly not throw aside the Mask of Friendship until the very hour of execution—How insufficient the Army just mentioned was for accomplishing extensive Projects I have already observed and the impossibility of his being joined by any considerate power from that Season to the end of March may be easily seen when the circumstances of his correspondence with the Mahrattas comes to be

discussed and by a reference to the Paragraph of Minute of (2) 27th July last—If then the Augmentation of his Troops at that period may

with any forced supposition, be deduced from principals of Friendship and views of general Security and of gratitude, Policy, and Necessity, all conspired at that season to render impracticable any projects of ambition in gratification of Resentment—What judgement shall we pass on the conduct of the Nabob? Shall we condemn his good faith because his Actions may be placed in an unfavorable Light? Or shall we acquit him in a Case where he could hardly be even intentionally guilty? If we admit his correspondence with the Mahrattas it will appear as little in in his disfavor as his Military preparations—At the time he is supposed to have intended commencing hostilities he must have known there was no Mahratta Army on this side of the Nerbudda able even to support their Possessions, and Troops near Calpee from the attacks of Jewhar

Sing (2) He must have known the general opinion of their intending no expedition to Hindostan this year (3) and the correspondence itself must have furnished him with the most indisputable evidence of their total incapacity, to unite heartily with him from their

internal disputes & (4) Divisions—His March to Maundy is a clear proof, he expected nothing from them and a strong presumption he intended nothing himself—

Inclosures No. 1.

Pro. Col. Smith. (3)  
3d. Novr. 19. Oct.

(2) Inclo - No. 2  
Prests. Min.

(2) Col. Smith.  
(3) 18th Augt.

(4) Decr. 20.

If he had expected them to his assistance, would he have marched Six or Eight days journey, in an immediate opposite direction from the very Quarter where a junction could be effected? or if he had formed any plan of attack on the Kings Dominions would he have withdrawn his Army considerably above one hundred miles inland from the nearest Frontier and about 260 from their Capital Allahabad? A cantonment of his Troops opposite Shew-Rajepore<sup>2</sup> or Jagemon<sup>3</sup> on any pretence of disturbance or otherwise would have enabled him to have joined a Mahratta Army from Calpy in one or two Months, or a Rohilla one from Furruckabad & in three or four and to have entered the Royal Demesnes before we could have received advices of such an invasion—Whereas from the distance of Maundy we must have heard of any Allies joining him and been apprized of their approach time enough to have met them on the Corah Frontiers—Whatever Reasons therefore the Nabob might have for keeping up such a correspondence with the Mahrattas it is clear he could never think of distressing us at the time pointed out by any alliance with them; and we ourselves could not have framed a more efficacious Plan for preventing the Mahrattas for interfering in the Deccan than by tempting them to turn their thoughts on an expedition to Hindustan—I do not pretend to Assert the Nabob acted upon this Principal but where no evil could accrue from such a Negotiation and division might be promoted in their Councils thereby I cannot see how it can be attributed to him as a crime or a breach of his Public Faith—His supposed correspondence with Nudjib ul Dowlah Jewhar Sing Ahmed Shaw &c. does not merit any serious consideration seeing Colonel Smith at the very time he

communicated the Intelligence (5) says he does not lay much stress upon it—The general belief through Hindostan of the Nabobs duplicity & deceit, the last cause urged for suspecting him, and the Common report is never supposed to carry any serious convictions with it: yet in this case its testimony became still more exceptionable from his Majesty's known jealousy of the Nabob, and from Munrah ul Dowlah's Ambition to remain sole director of the Royal House, by the exclusion of the Vizier from the superintendence of Affairs—Their desire of keeping Sujah ul Dowlah out of the presence stands incontestably proved in the Country Correspondence and what means would be more likely to Produce this end than to propagate rumours and endeavor to raise distrust of his attachment in our breasts who were labouring so ardently to introduce him into Power a recent fact adds great strength to this supposition. It is universally reported at this time throughout the empire that we are on the point of commencing hostilities against the Nabob, as his intentions of breaking with us last year were every where industriously published

Col: Smith (5) 3  
Novr. 19 Octr.

how far these may be derived from the same source, and how far they rest upon the same foundation after the discussion I have gone through you gentlemen will be able to form a very accurate judgment. Thus much will I apprehend be fully sufficient to exculpate the Nabob from any disaffected views during the uncertainty of our Affairs in the Deccan, and the only reason why we can imagine he either did or does entertain them must be the unwearied perseverance he has since shewn in the prosecution of his Military arrangements. It will not however I apprehend be urged as a necessary consequence that because the Nabob is exciting his whole endeavours to render himself formidable he is therefore certainly preparing that force against us alone when there are so many great and more immediate objects for the gratification either of his ambition or resentment.—The Treasures of the Jauts, and the Mines of Rajah Hindaput are no small temptation or so difficult conquests as our provinces and the remembrance of the scorn and insults he received from the Rohillas in the day of his distress should seem to mark them as the first victims of his vengeance rather than as his Friends and restorers of his Fortune.—That the Nabob himself has at different times entertained thoughts of all these will appear from his frequent applications in his Letters to me for the procuring him Sunnuds for the Rajah Hindaputs Country, and his eagerness to attack the Rohillas, and his views upon the Jauts are communicated to me by Captain Harper under date the 24th April and Sir Robert Barker under date the 5th August attested extracts of which I have the honor to enclose—I have been thus minute in examining the foundations on which the suspicions of the Nabobs steadiness to his engagements and attachment to us are grounded because so much weight has been laid on them in the course of our debates & not because I think them of any consequential import to our measures for the public safety.—While the Nabob continued weak and dependant it mattered little what his secret intentions were and the moment he could rise considerably above the common level a restriction of his increasing strength in consequence became necessary from such an accession of power, as our own plan of politics and the general tranquility were endangered whether the blow was immediately levelled at ourselves or some weaker neighbours, whatever distrust however we may entertain of the Nabob, it is clear he entertains not the least apprehension of our integrity and good faith as I received a letter from him on the 22nd acquainting me of his fixed intention to set out on the 18th for Patna and that he would proceed to Mongheir Moorshedabad or even Calcutta to make me a visit, and cut off all source of such unbecoming reports in future.—Captain Harper also informs me at the same time his Excellency will bring only 500 Horse with him and his Two Granadier Companies and will if I choose it come with 50 Peons

8. Yet should we even admit the Nabob's inclinations to quarrel with us to have been ever so manifest, the second point still remains to be considered how far in such a case forcing him to an eclaircissement before we resolved on that step was either necessary or warrantable—That his situation did not require it and that ours could not justify such a measure till the advance of the Season had put it out of our power to be immediately active, I have endeavoured both to shew in my minute of 27th July and to an enclosed Copy

Inclos. No. 1.

Inclos. No. 2.

of which (1) I now refer to avoid repetition I will only add that from the annexed Statement (2) of his Army it will easily appear how inconsiderable an access of real strength he had received from the 16th October to the 20th & 24th March and how far from rapid his improvements were in that interval—His advances indeed after that Period become alarming both from their extent and nature but from what he had already done no human foresight could divine the possibility of such an encrease in so few Months, and when this encrease could appear, the excessive heats and immediate approaching rains rendered any attempts to restrict him useless and impolitic till we could enforce if necessary our remonstrances by Arms—In October he had five battalions of Sepoys, and two raising—At the time of Colonel Smiths Visit he had no more than Seven and though on the 23rd of March he appears to have eleven Battalions yet only the former Seven fit for Service the other four not being completed with arms and only [.....] to March and performs the evolutions—His Artillery at Maundy was 22 pieces, at Oude it was 29 and though in March the number was swelled to 47, yet 24 of these were only from one to three pound Calibre, and therefore of no great consequence in action. His Cavalry on his March to the Westward is made 25000. Colonel Barker the 17th February on the spot at Fiezabad makes it 30,000 and by the enumeration of the several Sirdars and their respective Corps they appear no more than 16,500 in March—I do not lay much stress upon this because the Nabob could always assemble as many horse as he wanted in a month or two if he had but money to maintain them—but only to evince that his Force was not actually increasing at that time in this Article His Manufactures of Firelocks maintained the same uniformity in October (3) he completed about 150 Stands—At Colonel Smith Journey to Oude he had 500 Workmen who finished from 150 to 200 per month and under date the 17th February Colonel Barker informs the Committee that from 150 to 200 were prepared in the same space—It is true the Nabob told Captain Harper in March that in two months he should have 400 Workmen able to Perfect two thousand stands Per Month (reckoning each man to put five Locks out of hand) but it does not appear that he ever effected this

and it must seem rather uttered as a piece of ostentation if we reflect that not above three weeks before he was able to produce no more than a tenth of that proportion with all his Assiduity—I need but just remark the want of precision and frequent contradictions in the Estimate of his Forces at different times by the same people Colonel Barker under date the 17th February to the Committee says he has 17 Battalions, and 30,000 Horse, and on the 23rd March he transmitted me the particulars of his Army amounting only to 16,500 Cavalry and Eleven Battalions of Sepoys, four of which were neither complete in Arms or discipline Captain Harper under date May 3rd equally exaggerates his Troops. He says “He can assemble in a few days Eleven Battalions ready to take the Field and from his account of the Eleven (March 20) only Six will appear fit for Service exclusive of the irregular Rabble of the Nudjub Phultan—I will not here enter into an examination of the propriety either of the resolutions or Plan of bringing the Nabob at present to an explanation of his intentions and setting some bounds to his Power, as reasons for both stand so fully recorded on the Select Committee Proceedings from 27 July to 13th September as to require neither addition nor elucidation’—From a review of the whole matter then it seems plain, that the duplicity of the Nabob’s conduct and intentions was never clearly established, that we first heard of his being suspected at the time the event had taken place which secured us from any attempts this year and that his preparations were neither so alarming nor on situation so unembarrassed as to make an eclarcissement necessary or politic till the season put it out of our power—That there is the greatest probability from the spirited and prudent measures of the present deputation of the Nabob’s peaceably acquiescing in such a limitation of his Force as may leave him formidable to others, secure in himself and yet not alarming to us, And that should he repose to comply with so reasonable a request from us he must be necessitated alone and unsupported to oppose our veteran Sepoys and our numerous accession of European Soldiers, and experienced Officers with a body of Infantry the principal part of which has been neither raised armed or disciplined above six months

9 In the situation of the other potentates in Hindustan no great alteration has taken place except the decease of the Rajpoot & Jaut Chiefs—Maharajah Madha Sing died a Natural death after concluding a sort of truce rather than Peace with Jewhar Sing and the Siks, and Jewhar Sing was assassinated in June by a Rajpoot four of whom had been commissioned by their Principal Sirdars for that purpose, from an apprehension of his view upon their country after the Rains, on account of the youth and weakness of their new Ruler Pertite Sing No Commotions have however been produced



by this accident—His brother Ruttun Sing, a weak indolent, debauchee has peaceably succeeded him, though it is not improbable that that very weakness may prove a temptation to his neighbour or the enterprizing Mahratta or Sik to attack him at a proper opportunity—Divisions have also been manifested among the Rohillas, a formidable insurrection was raised in Ahmed Khan's Country which obliged him to apply to his Majesty & Sujah ul Dowlah for Assistance—The Tranquility (2) has since been restored to his Territories by defeat of the Rebel Abud-Allah Cawn, without any Foreign interposition—The Powers further to the Westward appear tranquil and settled; there is no appearance of any [new?] expedition from the Shah Abdalla and the Siks will in all probability not adopt any active measures this Season as they have received Money from Madhar Sing, Jewhar Sing and Nudjibe ul Dowla to Purchase their friendship or rather to buy off their ravages—The only probability of their return, must be from the invitation of the Jauts or Rajpoots should the Mahrattas make any attempts upon them; And their interfering in this case will rather add to our Security than give us reason for alarm, because by their Support of the weaker Party, the contest must become more equal and the only enemy we have to fear in India, be greatly weakened thereby without the mediation either of Our Arms or influence.

10. The state and order of your Provinces, Revenues, Commerce and Service in general, are Matters next in consequence to your political security and as such require the most urgent representations on my part and the most dispassionate attention on your's. The animosity of Public faction, the extravagant hopes of the partial or Sanguine and the unjust misrepresentations of the designing, and discontented have contributed to exaggerate the advantages of all above the real or even possible amount, they have contributed to draw on us the Public odium, and mislead the impartiality and propriety of your most positive injunctions.

11. When the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, came under your jurisdiction, they were much sunk in opulence, Population and Manufactures from their Ancient importance—The almost continual irruptions of the Mahrattas under the Government of Ali Burdi Cawn and the Avarice of the Ministers under the supineness of Sherage ul Dowla The Necessities of Meer Jaffier and the iron hand of the rapacious and blood thirsty Cossim, struck equally at the property of the Rich and the industry of the Poor—And while it reduced the one to indigence it compelled the other to seek safety in flight—If to these we add, 1st the immense amount of Specie & Jewells, to the value of between three and five Crores of Rupees, secreted or carried off by Cossim after his several defeats had obliged

him to extinguish all hopes of reinstatement. 2ndly The Royal Tribute of 26 Laaks, & the expense of 20 Laaks for a Brigade both paid out of the bounds of the Province and consequently out of the Sphere of our immediate circulation. 3rdly The Annual amount of our own and the other Nations investments for which no value is received in the Country: fourthly the large Exports of Bullion to China and the different Presidencies during the three last Years, and lastly the unavoidable misfortune and principal drain of the immense Sums poured into the Cash of Foreign Nations for Bills on their respective Company's I say the aggregate of these several exports must appear inevitable and immediately ruinous to the most flourishing State much less be deemed tolerable to a declining and exhausted Country yet it is in these circumstances the Court of Directors and Nation in General have been induced to expect prodigious remittances in Specie from a Country which produces little Gold and no Silver and where any considerable imports of both have for a Series of years been rendered unnecessary to the Trade of the Foreign Companies from the General demand for Drafts to Europe—It was therefore to be wished and was more than once proposed, that when these lands came under our Management we had lowered for a time the stated rents of those districts as an incitement to cultivation and improvement: Rather than have made the smallest attempt to an increase—Many however and powerful reasons conspired to influence the Administration in the measures the (*sic*) adopted—The necessity of providing a certain fund for emergencies in a Country fruitful in Revolutions—The certainty of no supplies from home or the other Presidencies and the probability of large demands from both all pleaded powerfully for retaining things on the footing we found them and for postponing a relaxation of Revenue till these great Purposes were fully accomplished—The event has justified our preconceived opinions though the necessities of the Country remain unrelieved & unremedied—Distressed as we are at present for the means of the necessary remittances to the Coast and Bombay for the Provision of future investments and even for the defraying of Current expences—What must have been our situation had our Collections been less rigid and ample? Excuse me gentlemen for suggesting here another reason not less cogent though of a more private nature—If when your Servants here have exerted themselves in every extension of your Revenues, and Investment consistent with the immediate safety of the Country and all their efforts fall so sort (*sic*) of the ideas you have formed and the Public expectation, what could they have hoped had they framed their measures for present Retrenchment and distant advantages? Might not your whole administration have with justice apprehended their being sacrificed to an irritated and misinformed Court of Proprietors

who might have regretted the injury when the reparation was beyond their power? Do us the justice Gentlemen to reflect how unreasonable such a risk of our fortunes and Character must appear after a tedious service and the manifold injuries of the Climate more especially where our own opinions and integrity are all the evidence we have to produce in our support.

12. Among the extravagant estimates of your acquisitions in Bengal I am sorry to find one delivered by Lord Clive not the least exceptionable in point of exaggeration: though I apprehend that the Statement must have been intended by his Lordship to give you an idea of the Ancient value of your possessions and consequently their capability of being improved again to that height by prudential management rather than as an accurate account of what has really been or could in this present state be collected—Had his Lordship meant it in the latter light he was palpably arraigning his own conduct and administration; as the smallest reference to the Public accounts of receipts and disbursements in your hands much (*sic*) have fixed beyond contradiction. The immense deficiency of the former during his whole Government from his present calculation.—I have good reason to believe his Lordship's estimate was founded on extracts from the Old Cutcherry Books, of the Sums paid by the Lands in better times and as a proof of this it will be found on a comparison greatly to exceed any Bundeebush or Annual bargain made with the Landholders at the Poonah for the ensuing Year, since the time we were invested with the dewanee without making any deduction for the necessary expences of the Collections or the balances accruing from unavoidable Accidents. I had flattered myself I should have derived some credit in your opinions from an unwearied attention to every improvement of your Lands & Revenues since my Accession to the Chair—The Records will demonstrate how much I have lessened the expences of collecting the rents and how much I have encreased their Amount since the time of my Predecessor. But if my whole labour and merit are to be swallowed up in the expectation of impossibilities I can only lament in silence the misfortune or mistake and submit my character and conduct on this point to the impartiality of time. Permit me in the meanwhile to give you my most serious opinion founded on almost nineteen years experience in the various branches of the Revenues and in various districts of your possessions that it is totally beyond the power of your Administration to make any material addition to the rents or remit a single Rupee in specie home, and that unless the most efficacious and speedy measures are entered upon by you to necessitate the Foreign Nations to an importation of Bullion equal to the homeward cargoes and effectually to divert the Capital Sums paid for their bills into the Channel of your own remittances, money

will soon become so scarce as to oblige us to collect many of the Rents in the produce of the Lands instead of Specie and our utmost exertion of endeavours be deemed happy if we can any way gather together a sufficient supply of cash for the provision of your investment and the Current expences of this Presidency A reference to the immense drains I have mentioned and a balance of Trade against the Country equal to the Sum of our own investments and those of all the other nations will easily account for this distress, and justify my assertions.

13. The extent of the Dutch and French Credit exceeds all conception and their Bills are even solicited as favours—The precise sums received by them for some years, I have endeavored to ascertain though hitherto without success, but if we only form our idea from the Bills drawn this Season from Europe on Individuals here and at Madras exclusive of what has been received for Bills on their Company, the amount will appear prodigious and alarming advices of Drafts and letters of credit have been already received to the amount of 28 laaks of Rupees on Bengal and 10 Laaks on the Gentlemen of Madras, and I have the most certain information that their Treasuries at Pondicherry and Chandernagore, are amply furnished with provision for both their investments and expences, for three years to come you have often complained of the superiority of the French and other Investments, but your orders and Regulations have furnished them with the most extensive means of both. It is in vain to threaten dismissal from your Service or forfeiture of your protection, for sending home Money by Foreign Cash while you open no door for remittances yourselves, such menaces may render the practice more secret and cautious but will never diminish much less remove the evil.

14. But it is not from their accumulation of Money here & on the Coast that I think the French designs require a very strict attention, but because their preparations at the Islands and the number of Ships they send out to remain in the country leave us little room to doubt they are meditating an important and early blow in this quarter—How far the procuring a Squadron of Men of War to be stationed in India is in your power or consistant with your Plans I know not but allow me to recommend it as a measure highly conducive to your Security.

15. Though I had not at that time an adequate notion, either of the opulency of the French or so immediate prospect of our own distress for Specie, yet with a view to restrict their supplies for the ensuing year—I formed a plan in the begining of May last for receiving all monies tendered to our Treasury and giving Bills on Europe payable in the Annual proportions the whole to bear an

interest at 6 per cent till such Bills were granted, and the balance after the first year to bear an interest of three per cent till paid—The universal concurrence I knew the proposal would meet with induced me to prepare a minute on the Subject for the Consideration

Enclosure No. 3. of the Board (1) and a Copy of which I have the honor to enclose for your better information and proof of the utility of such an Arrangement—Before we have an opportunity of entering on so important a debate, from the absence of Messrs Cartier and Becher, the arrival of your orders by the Admiral Watson obliged me to quit my former intentions however thoroughly I remained convinced of their necessity—Had the resolution depended solely on myself I would have risked your severest displeasure, from a consciousness of doing my duty and promoting your true interest but when your prohibitions were so positive when your prejudices appeared so strong, and your confidence in us so small, could I have proposed to the Council the drawing on you for £150 or £200,000 Sterling, when you expected a remittance in Specie to the amount of £500,000 without subjecting every Member of that Board to certain disgrace, or dismissal from you, had they acquiesced in my measures.

16. But though it has been impossible for us in our present situation to follow your directions in the remittance of so large a Sum in Specie, as much I think as the power of men could effect has been done, and is still doing to enable you to realize in Europe as much as possible of your possessions here the Mode indeed has been different from what you had prescribed—but I flatter myself it will be found on trial most beneficial to the Company's Affairs & the Nation in general—If you will recur to the state of your Investment four or five years ago it will be found not to exceed on a Medium thirty four Laaks of Rupees, the last year we provided you to the amount of sixty four Laaks and I am in hopes if nothing unexpected intervenes to be able to transmit you by the Ships of this Season Goods to the Value of one complete Million Sterling when it is considered that this is an increase of near £600,000, that your possessions here will be less impoverished by an export of their produce than specie; that the Nation will be benefited by the duties on so large an import and that the Company instead of a loss of 20 P Cent on bullion will reap a considerable Profit on the Sales of these Cargoes I doubt not our Conduct & industry will meet your and the Nation's most sincere Approbation.

17. As the former Establishment of a Gold Currency was considered as an aggravation of the scarcity of Silver, a burthen on Trade, and a general Greivance (*sic*) I thought the total and immediate removal of it highly expedient, my reasons for this step and the

means I thought most conducive to its accomplishment are fully expressed in the enclosed Copy of a Minute (No. 2) upon the

(2) Enc 4 Subject all I need add is that they met with the

unanimous approbation of the Board and have so far answered my hopes that the amount of 120161 of Gold Mohurs has been received out of the balance of 1,28,728 of that Coinage, and upon the terms I proposed

18 I before acquainted you of my attempts to make Flints here with a view of having them always at Command, lessening your expense and trouble in the exportation of that Article—800,000 have been completed but notwithstanding the excellence of their fire, as there seems room for apprehension of their damaging the hammers by any long use, from their extraordinary hardness I must request you would continue to send us the necessary supplies of them as before and to prevent any of the Country Powers taking advantage of the discovery I have dispersed the Workmen who had been instructed in the Method of making them in the most inland parts, as far as possible from the Frontiers

19 To enable you to form the most perfect idea of the Military improvements of the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah, I send you by Captain Purvis a Musquet which is one of his first attempts, and also lock which is of his last and best Manufacture

20 To explain to you how Much the advantages of your Servants have been overrated and how more particularly necessary your indulgence to them must yearly become, I need but remark that your former limitations of every means of emolument to them had before left them no possibility of acquiring the most moderate independency but by Trade, and the prodigious advance of your various investments has now struck at the very existence of small private Commerce The abolition of the exclusive Trade for Salt & Beetle Nut has still farther distressed them, The benefits arising from thence to your Senior Servants & Field Officers, supplied them with an easy competency for the present and your Junior ones were encouraged by a prospect of succeeding to the same in their turn, to persevere steadily in a conscientious and disinterested attention in their respective Departments—On the contrary, how mortifying must it be at present to every serious observer, to behold these fair prospects wrested from them without any Solid advantage to the Country or Compy to see this lucrative Branch of Commerce left open to any intruding Foreigner whilst it is absolutely interdicted to every Englishman—I will not hesitate to declare to you Gentlemen that no one evil apprehended from the late Society can be removed, no one Advantage arise, no burthen be lightened to the Natives in General, by this Measure, so injurious to your Service; the simple

alternative is whether you think it is most for the Honor of the Company and Nation and most consonant with justice to throw the greatest and almost only private advantages of this Settlement into the hands of the Dutch, French, Danes and a few principal Banyans, or reserve them as a reward for a long and faithful discharge of duty by your Servants and as a means of assisting them in the acquisition of a competency for life—The Salt Trade has and ever will be a monopoly in the possession of a few, who may have influence or interest enough from their situations to engross it and all attempts to make it general by any restrictions of number of Calaries Quantities &c. must ever prove ineffectual while it is so easy in this Country to substitute the Names of Dependents for those of the real proprietors.—Permit me Gentlemen most strenuously to recommend the re-establishment of the latter plan or one of a similar nature from a thorough well grounded conviction of its propriety and utility.

21. So great a decline in your Service will also open a door for illicit practices and public imposition to men of corrupt or weak principles, when they find themselves precluded from fair & honest emoluments. How far this may have influenced the conduct of Messrs. Williamson, Forbes, & Palk, (whom we have been necessitated to suspend for the most barefaced Frauds in the Burhampore Cantonment) I cannot determine, but I hope their example will effectually deter other from any such attempts in future You may rest assured of the utmost attention in us for the discovery of faults or neglects and the most rigid severity in every necessary punishment; it is in your power alone Gentlemen to encourage the upright and capable, and to reward the meritorious.

22. As my extreme weak state of health and encreasing complaints will make it in all probability necessary for me to return to Europe by one of the latter Ships and as some other Gentleman of your Council propose embarking for Europe at the same time I would have wished that many of those Servants who stand next in succession had been more eminently distinguished by several of those qualifications I have just mentioned. The superintendence of so extensive complex and important system of Affairs as the Company's at present requires men of very superior judgement abilities and experience and makes it particularly incumbent on You, well to weigh the merits of such as you may appoint members of the Supreme administration of such consequential concerns.—I am sensible of the difficulties you labor under in this point—To send Gentlemen from Europe or call Senior Servants from other Presidencies, to fill vacancies here must be attended with such essential and unavoidable disadvantages as will more than counter-balance every Superiority of Capacity & worth—Unacquainted with

the language, inexperienced in the Customs, & strangers to the mode of conducting the business of the Country they must depend more on their Banyans than themselves & repose that confidence and consequence in their Private Servants which as Servants of the Company ought only to be vested in their own persons, fortunate though we have been and adequately as every department is now filled, Yet I doubt not you will easily see the unsupportable objections to future Appointments in Council either from home or the other Presidencies—If little can be expected from them or if Superiority is to be the unalterable rule of Succession here—What is to be done? I would be glad to recommend a Medium Plan—You have many Servants in Bengal perfectly capable of the less Principal detail of business though unequal to the Administrative Department—You have many others who are deficient neither in Zeal, disinterestedness, ability or experience, but only in years and standing—the fixing the former could neither detriment your Affairs nor materially affect individuals, and a judicious selection of the latter would do honor to yr choice & service

23 Yet though I would recommend the fixing the Stations of particular persons who may have risen to the head of your list rather from strength of constitution than pre eminence of merit—I cannot help suggesting to you the inconsistency of restricting the rise of persons whose Superior qualifications may have induced you to place them immediately in Senior Stations I cannot give a stronger instance than your powerful recommendations of your Sub Accountant Mr Darrell, and your positively binding to a department, the emoluments of which are inadequate even to the necessary expences of his situation Had a discretionary power of relaxing such limitation been left to your Governor & Council, or referred to a due performance of certain Services, it would have proved a spur to his industry and enabled us to confer those rewards which yr high opinion and his present conduct induces us to hope he will really merit—I hope these considerations will induce you to remit such positive restrictions in future where such appointments may be deemed necessary and to revoke them in his case

24 I cannot quit the subject of your Servants here, without urging my most particular request in behalf of Mr Middleton from my sincere wish of advancing the Companys interest—I may safely affirm there is not a Servant in your Settlement more beloved, more respected, or more relied on for his benevolence, Abilities and impartiality either by the Natives or his own Countrymen—It is true he received presents in common with others, less deserving them—But he was neither accessory nor privy to the unjustifiable means of their being obtained & had the positiveness of your orders left the smallest opening or distinction he would not have been blended in



the Common censure.—Gentlemen I have known him long and intimately, were you as well acquainted with his probity and Character as everyone here is you would unanimously concur in his readmission with the same alacrity as every Member of the Board felt regret and remorse at the dismissal of so worthy a Servant.

25. The same causes for appointing some Factors or Junior Merchants pointed out by Lord Clive still subsist—There will be time enough for such Persons to qualify themselves both in the language and knowledge of the Country before they can probably rise to more important Officers—& take the liberty of seconding Lord Clive's recommendation in favor of two Gentlemen for such appointments Mr. Moodie & Mr. Lister; both of them have been sometime resident in the Country: both are highly deserving your favor for Capacity & worth I doubt not this double testimony of their merits will have its due weight with you.

26. Mr. William Wynne has ever since his arrival in India been under Ld. Clive's and my own inspection, his unwearied assiduity and good conduct, require this Public testimony of his merit from us and his capacity and experience give him a particular claim to your favor—Allow me to request he may be indulged with a rank from his arrival here; as the first instance of your good opinion.

27. The great increase of business and the last years unhappy mortality render a supply of at least twenty writers absolutely necessary; and permit me at this time to recommend for one Mr. John Maddison now in England brother to Mr. Robert Maddison in your Service in Bengal, and who has by indefatigable Pains in the acquirement of the Persian Language rendered himself not only useful for the present to your service, but by the knowledge of the policy of the Country to which this immediately tends, laid the foundation of becoming a still more valuable Servant to you hereafter.

28. Captain Henry Watson has been so eminently useful in the construction of the Public buildings at Donnepore, by so great a saving of expense; he has demonstrated so much zeal for the Service and more especially on the most trying occasion of the General Resignation, and so extensive a capacity in every branch of his profession, that I must recommend him very warmly not only for redress in the present hardship he labours under from supersession by the late appointments of the

Enclo. No. 5. Engineer Corps, but to some distinguishing mark of your approbation of his good services—I have the honor to enclose you the particulars of his case (1) as a number in the Packet.

29 I have the honor to transmit you a very complete & correct Map of your Provinces & hope to complete for the next dispatch as full and accurate a one of the King's and the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah's Dominions as well as some of the contiguous Powers—I could wish 30 or 40 impressions of them were taken with due secrecy and precautions for the use of the Gentlemen here who may have the immediate charge of any parts of them

30 And now Gentlemen allow me to close this address, with an apology for its length If I have inadvertently wandered into prolixity, it arose solely from an endeavour to be minute If unintentionally I may have appeared too warm—Do me the justice to believe it sprung from zeal for your Service and a hearty wish to express necessary conviction—In all my representations truth and your interest have been my objects, and independent of them I have ventured on neither praise or censure—If better and ampler lights than I have been able to obtain should suggest better and more efficacious counsels I shall not complain that mine have been neglected—If I have been able to communicate any thing which may tend to your satisfaction or the Advantage of the Compy. I am happy & hope no more

I have the honor to be with the Greatest respect

Fort William  
25 Sept 1768

Gentlemen  
Yr Faithfull & most  
Obedt humble Servt.  
H Verelst

## 22

### LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1768.

*Collanes (Khalar)—place where salt is manufactured) not to be auctioned—the report of the Committee of Enquiry regarding Cossimbazar overcharge*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading the East Indies—

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We had the Honor to address you under date the 13th Sept. P Valentine & again the 24th of that Month by the same Ship & Duplicates of those Advices now wait on you by the Ships Verelst & Kent.

2. The early dispatch of these Ships with the considerable part of your Investment which they carry will We flatter ourselves prove very Satisfactory to you & at the same time point out to you the strict Attention We pay to your Orders for sending home your Investment as early as possible Had the Terms of Charter Party admitted of it the ships would have sailed still earlier & the very day it expired was the day we fixed on for sending down their Dispatches.

3. We were so particular in our Letter by the Valentine & so short a Space of time hath since elapsed that We have few occurrences to acquaint you with Such as appear to us most material. We shall now do ourselves the Honor to communicate to you & leave a more minute detail of your Service to our Letter under the established Heads which We promise ourselves the pleasure of dispatching to you early in January.

4. We had the Satisfaction to be informed from Capt. Purvis that the Valentine was clear of the danger of the River the 3rd Inst. & We have the additional Satisfaction to acquaint you that all your Ships for the three Presidencies of Bengal Bombay & Madrass are safely Arrived.

5. The Ankerwyke was so much damaged by the Accident she met with in this River that she was obliged to heave down & has been repaired as well as can be done but the Master Attendant hath given it as his Opinion that she ought not to Receive her homeward Bound Cargo untill she has been docked at Bombay & Rec'd a thorough Repair there We have therefore confirmed our former Orders of the 24th Augst. last for dismissing her the Compys. Service untill she is in a proper condition to be employed on your Acct. & She will proceed to Bombay in a short time to Receive the necessary Repairs for this purpose.

6. Lest the Gentn. at Madrass should not be able to dispatch their last Ship until late in the Season & from an Apprehension that the damages the Queen Rec'd from the accident she & the Dutton met with may render it unsafe to undertake the Voyage at an unfavorable time of the Year We have been induced to change our intentions of sending her Round to the Coast & substituting one of the Ships expected from Bombay in her Room for altho' it does

not appear that the damages She hath sustained are material yet as it is impossible to judge in her present Situation how far they may affect her we deemed it more eligible to secure her a passage at a favorable Season of the Year than Run the least Risk & We therefore intend dispatching her early in Janry.

7. We acquainted you Honble Sirs in the 62nd Paragraph of our Letter of the 15 Sept. 1768 of the measures we had taken for putting into Execution the Plan you had been pleased to lay down for carrying on the Inland Trade in Salt We informed you of our having Referred some material Points to the discussion of a Committee appointed for this purpose We have done all in our power to obtain every possible Light & Information on this important Subject & our utmost endeavors have been Exerted to fix this Trade on that Footing you have so earnestly Recommended.

8. The Gentn. of this Committee having finished their Deliberations on the points Referred to them laid the same before us in Cons: 7th Octr. & your Orders & Directions have been most attentively considered & maturely weighed We that day adopted a Plan for carrying on that Trade & we flatter ourselves Gentn. it will appear to you that in this Plan the ease & convenience of the Natives—the cheapness of Salt in all Parts of the Country To prevent oppression & to Remove to you an Equitable & Reasonable duty have been our Principal Objects.

9. As We have ever been & always shall be particularly Attentive to your Orders & Instructions & as it was our full intention & determined Resolution strictly to adhere & conform to your Regulations for carrying on this Important Trade We could have wished gentn. that they had been such as to have Relieved us from the disagreeable necessity of deviating in a single point from them.

10. But from a thorough Conviction that too Rigid a Regard to your Orders would have proved prejudicial to your Interest We could not put up the Callaries at Public Outcry as you have directed without an actual & considerable diminution of your Revenue in the Provinces of Midnapore & Burdwan & in every other part of the Country We thought it then became as much our duty to set aside this Regulation as it otherwise would have been to enforce it.

11. We are the less Anxious Hon'ble Sirs for this deviation from your Plan from the Consideration that it is the only material one & that tho' we have not literally acted up to your Orders yet We have not departed from the Spirit & meaning of them & this We Assure ourselves will be fully Evinc'd from the Reasons assigned & the Regulations laid down in our Cons: 17th Octr. which are so

full & Explicit that we imagine it will be superfluous to Recite them & We therefore beg leave to Refer you to them for your Information.

12. Some Slight Alterations appeared afterwards necessary in the Regulations then formed & they were accordingly made in Cons: 17th Novr. This Plan as it is now drawn up hath been communicated to the Resident at the Durbar & will be Recommended by him to the Ministers who he acquaints us he has no doubt will very Readily Agree to its taking Place in the Nabobs Government It has been Circulated by the Collector General thro' all the Districts under his Management & the consequences that Result from this mode of conducting the Salt Trade you shall be punctually & faithfully acquainted with.

13. The Committee of Enquiry which we informed you in the 70th Para: of our last Letter had been appointed to examine into the overcharges at Cossimbuzar have finished their Proceedings & are Returned But Messrs. Williamson & Palk having Requested to be indulged with a little longer stay at that Factory to settle their Affairs It was granted them which hath prevented our finishing the necessary Enquiries into their Conduct But Mr. Forbes having proceeded immediately to the Presidency he was called upon to answer to the Charges laid against him which he did by a Letter entered in our Separate Proceedings of the 24th Octr. The Defence he attempted to make in his Letter was so vague weak & insufficient & his Conduct appeared highly culpable that We deemed him very unworthy to Remain any longer in your Service & therefore dismissed him & have entered a Prosecution for the Amount of the Money he has accumulated by the unwarrantable methods that appear against him.

14. The Proceedings of the Committee of Enquiry were too Voluminous to be entered on the Face of our Consultations We therefore determined to keep them Apart & make our enquiries into this Affair Separate Proceedings also from our Public Consultations & when they are finished which We imagine will be before the departure of next Ship We shall do ourselves the Honor to transmit them to you.

15. We are sorry it has not yet been in our power to draw out the General Acct. you have directed us to furnish you with in your General Letter under date 20th Novr. 1767 As We have not been able to collect together all the Accts. that are Requisite to form it from—But you may be Assured it shall be compleated & transmitted to you as soon as possible.

16. A Bulse of Diamönds was sent by the President in the Valentine without being Registered But this was owing to its

Arriving after our Dispatches were closed as it was then too late to have it Regularly inserted in the Register he noted it in his Orders to the Captain

17 Mr Thomas Hewitt one of your Covenanted Servants of the Rank of Junior Merchant having Requested our Permission to Resign the Service it was accordingly granted him & he now takes his Passage on the Verelst

18 In our Letter by the Valentine We were induced from the Merits of the Officers to whose further Rise in the Service you had been pleased to put a Bar to plead in their behalf from the same motive We beg leave to point out to you Major Hill & to intercede for him also This Gentn hath served you for a course of five years & has been esteemed a very good Officer The only instance in his Conduct that deserves the least Censure as we know of is the part he took in the association But as You gentn have been pleased to bury in oblivion the Behaviour of your Officers on that occasion & as we must do Major Hill the Justice to say that the error he had fallen into was no sooner pointed out to him by Lord Clive than he immediately Retracted from it & very particularly exerted himself in his duty We hope this Circumstance will not prevent his obtaining the favor he now Sollicits & that you will Remove the Bar you have put on his Preferment

We have Licensed Sundry Diamonds & precious Stones to the Amount of

The Particulars appear by the Manifest which goes a number in her Packet

On the Ship Verelst We have Laden Sundry Goods & Merchandize to the Amount of C Rs 9 19 400

Agreeable to the Invoice enclosed & on the Kent to the Amount of C Rs 9 00 500

By the Former Ship We have also Laden Stores for the use of your Island St Helena to the Amount of 1543 6 3

The Ballance this day Remaining in your Treasury is 14 39 834 5 3 & in your Cash Chest 90248

Should you be Surprized Gentn at the Low State of your Treasury We must beg leave to call your Attention to the very large Sums that have been sent to China to the Supplies furnished the Gentn on the Coast for the Support of the War to the unavoidable Expences of this Presidency & to the Ample provision that has been Made for the very considerable Investment you may Expect from hence

Lieut. Colonel Martin Having Requested Permission to Resign the Service he was indulged in his Request & has accordingly Resigned the Service.

We are

Hon'ble Sirs

Your Faithful & most obedient

Humble Servants,

Fort William

18th November 1768.

H. Verelst/Richd. Becher/James Alexander/

Charles Floyer/Francis Charlton.

*Postscript.*—In consequence of your Orders for Colonel Pemble to take the Command of your Troops at Bombay he proceeded to that Presidency the first of this Month.

The President this day executed the New Indenture you have been pleased to send out & it makes a number in the Verelst's Packet.

We have granted by this Ship the following Setts of Certificates Vizt.

One Sett to Capt. John Mills & the Officers of the Ship Kent for . . . . .	Current Rs.	43,200
One Sett to Capt. Thos Baddison &ca. Officers of the Ship Verelst for . . . . .	Rs.	40,548-9-0
One Sett to Mr. John White Surgeon of the Valentine for . . . . .	Rs.	1,948-0-6
	Rs.	<u>85,691-9-6</u>

We are

Hon'ble Sirs

Your Faithful & most obedient

Humble Servants,

Fort William

18th Novr. 1768.

H. Verelst/Richd. Becher/James Alexander/

Charles Floyer/Francis Charlton.

## LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1768

*Shuja-ud-Daulah to be persuaded to reduce his army—matter likely to be amicably settled—recruiting service in England should be better organized—reinforcements sent to Madras—distress for want*

*of silver—danger threatening investment—collection of revenue in commodities might be necessary—foreign companies taking advantage of the situation—impossible to send silver for China investment*

**T**O the Hon ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon ble Sirs,

1 No material occurrences have happened in your Affairs here since the dispatch of the Valentine when we had the honor to address you under date the 13th September last, Duplicate and Triplicate whereof now wait on you by the Ships Verelst and Kent

2 Messrs Cartier Smith and Russel set out for Allahabad, on the business of their deputation soon after the departure of the Valentine, and we hope are ere now arrived there having left Patna the 7th instant

3 The important trust reposed in them had made them desirous of acquiring during the course of their journey every possible information of the state of Affairs above and the same motives have urged us to give them from time to time our unreserved sentiments on such further measures as appeared to us necessary for them to pursue, leaving to them however upon the spot the power of carrying them into execution or otherwise as they may judge most conducive to the good of your Service When we considered that the principal difficulty they may probably encounter will be in persuading the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah to a reduction of his force we recommended to those Gentlemen to consent to the Nabobs retaining Troops to the Number of 10 000 Infantry and 10 or 12 000 Cavalry From this force we can have nothing to apprehend and we think it sufficient to enable him to preserve that respect from the neighbouring Powers which he has hitherto maintained to a man of his ambition and vainglorious disposition there cannot be a greater disgrace than the Public Knowledge of such a reduction must necessarily occasion we have therefore signified to the Deputies, that we think so mortifying a circumstance may be evaded, by their prevailing on him to make a tender of the remainder of his Troops as Recruits to your Brigades—Such a measure would prevent the general Odium he must otherwise incur from the several Powers of Hindostan and instead of it must convince them of his steady attachment to yr interests

4 We flatter ourselves that matters will be amicably settled with the Nabob as it must evidently tend to your Interest to preserve an alliance with a person of his high station and power in the Empire—Nothing has been omitted on our parts, to induce him to participate



of your Friendship but time alone will shew how far a confidence may in future be placed in him.

5. We have on many occasions most earnestly solicited you to send abroad the best Recruits you could procure for your Military Establishments; So much depending thereon that it is the most essential point of security to your possessions we therefore take the Liberty of offering it as our opinion, that your recruiting service can only be properly conducted by Officers of Integrity and experience appointed for the purpose in England; who sensible of the important Services they may render to the Company by an attentive discharge of their duty, would cheerfully embrace the opportunity of recommending themselves to your favors by providing of good and able-bodied young men, who would be of real service to your Armies abroad and the very heavy expences annually incurred by you on this occasion would no longer be ill-bestowed—It is with concern we inform you that Colonel Smith has reported your Recruits of this Season, in general to be very indifferent—Of those already arrived there are barely Sufficient to form two of your Regiments agreeably to the Regulations you have been pleased to prescribe and they are appointed to complete as nearly as possible the second and third Brigades.

6. A division of the first Brigade remains at Monghyr and another under the command of Colonel Peach is still in the Deccan from whence the Gentlemen at Madras have given us hopes they will be speedily returned to us.

7. It is with much concern we observe that the Secret Department at Fort St. George still labor under great inconveniences from the want of money to enable them to pursue their operations with that vigor which they deem essentially necessary for the reduction of Hyder Ali they were even apprehensive of being driven to the necessity of appropriating to that use 180,000 Rupees of the sum then lying in their Treasury for the China Investment.

8. As our Treasury was at that time replenished by Gold Mohurs of the late Currency which the President and Council had thought proper to recall therein, we shipped on board the Admiral Watson and the Plassey Schooner to the amount of Eight Laaks of Rupees for that Presidency, this with three Laaks we sent on the Snow Asia which was drove by stress of weather into Pegue we hope will prove a seasonable Supply—We also sent them by the Admiral Watson 5,000 eighteen and 3000 twenty four Pounder Shot; and should at the same time have supplied them with the Article of Gun-Powder which they have since requested had we known they had wanted if before that Ship's departure—We then proposed to

send them two hundred Barrels on the Plassey Schooner: But on consulting with our Master Attendant, it was judged that the Season was too far advanced to admit of her being detained on that Account.

9. They have detained at Madras Mr. Lewis Smith a Cadet arrived there this Season on the Dutton and destined for Bengal as he was judged capable of rendering them service in the Engineering branch—The Gentlemen inform us, that it is their intention to request you will be pleased to fix him upon that Establishment and we take the liberty of recommending him to you for that purpose as you have so handsomely supplied us with Officers in that Corps.

10. Such of the Recruits destined to Bengal as have been landed at Madras are stopt here for the immediate Service of that Presidency—As those Gentlemen alone can judge how far the exigency of their Affairs required then taking a measure so contrary to your Intentions we could do no more than represent to them that the Number we received was insufficient for the purposes you intended them and to request they would send round to Us the remainder as soon as they could be spared.

11. We cannot in justice to you Our honorable employers, and to every individual residing under your Government in Bengal avoid representing once more to you the extreme distress which this Country is unhappily reduced from a want of Silver Specie. It is almost beyond conception and with difficulty will be credited, but by those who experience the ill effects it daily produces. The day is at length arrived which we so early foresaw, and has brought with it that load of inconveniencies which we have repeatedly apprized you of. This Settlement for some months past has in fact been in a state of Bankruptcy. Trade is totally put a stop to; and even the most reputable of your Servants, can with difficulty procure Silver sufficient for the payment of their Servants Wages—To these evils is added another; the more serious as it precludes even a distant prospect of the recirculation of Money we mean the very considerable draughts which have this Season been made on individuals from Europe in favor of the French Government at Chandernagore and of which we had the honor to advise you in our last address—There is now in Calcutta a Servant of the French Company, with those very Bills, which are nearly all become payable; receiving on that account every Rupee which can possibly be amassed by individuals, and sending it to that Settlement. He has orders from his Superiors to accept of no Company's Bonds in part-payment; by which it is apparent that their intention is to take every advantage of our distress.

12. Permit us also to refer you to the present state of your Treasury—You will thereby perceive a total inability to discharge any Sums which you are indebted to individuals for deposits in your Cash; as well as to issuing part of the considerable advances required for the service of every Public Department we need not then observe the apparent danger which threatens your Investment for the ensuing Season, neither the favorable prospects of our Rivals the French who by having so early a Command of Money must necessarily be enabled to make the more early advances.

13. The Dutch unwilling to trust to the precarious resources of an exhausting Country have since our last advices very judiciously imported some bullion to Bengal and though the Sum may not exceed Three Laaks of Rupees yet it is of the greatest utility to the forwarding of their Investment.

14. You may be convinced that the value of your Territorial acquisitions has not been decreasing since the Collections are now greater than they ever have been since your Investiture of the Dewannee. But be assured the benefits expected from them must be of short duration whilst a scarcity of Specie prevails as at present and is daily encreasing you must expect unless the evil is speedily removed to collect your revenues in the commodities produced in the Country, without having a prospect of vending them at any rate, as the Merchants will be totally deprived of the means to purchase them.

15. This Gentlemen is the present distressful and real situation of this Country, and we flatter ourselves that by taking a comparative view of our distant prospects with the Politic advantages reaped by the Foreign Nations trading here, who grasp at all private monies from individuals; you will no longer deem it reprehensible if a decrease in the amount of your future Investments, and a debasement of their quality should prove the Consequences, since you must be sensible that early advances alone can in this Country ensure the one or the other the heavy payments of your Revenue are not made till late in the Season and unless we have a years advance in your Treasury no advantage can be taken in its Provision.

16. Excuse us therefore if we think it a duty indispensable in us to exhort you in the strongest manner to pursue such measures as may oblige Foreign Nations to import Bullion into this sinking Country.

17. We have been the more explicit on this subject in order to evince the impossibility of the Councils sending any Silver this Season for the use of the China Investment for what with the farther demands we must expect will be made on us from the

Secret Departt at Fort St George, those now upon us to a very great amount and the providing of so considerable an investment and the unavoidable expences of this Presidency we are very apprehensive that little or no money will remain in your Treasury for some time at least to answer any Emergency

18 We have directed Mr Sykes to send us a supply from the City with all possible expedition and to give us hopes of receiving Six Laaks of Rupees in a few days—That Gentleman having requested our permission to resign his Post at the Durbar by reason of his ill state of health and to return to his duty at the Presidency we have referred his request to the President & Council for their nomination of a successor

19 We have the honor to transmit you the broken set of our proceedings & letters received and sent since the last Dispatch as per accompanying List of the Packet and to subscribe ourselves with the utmost respect

Fort William  
21st November 1768

Hon ble Sirs  
Your faithful &  
Most obedient Humble Servants,  
H Verelst/Rd Becher/Chas Floyer

## 24

## LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1768

*Intimating that a map of the territories of the King and Shuja ud Daulah is being sent*

**T**O the Hon ble the Court of Directors &c &c &c  
Gentlemen

Agreeably to my promise in my address to you by the Valentine, I have now the honor of sending to you a Map of the Territories in the Possession of the King and of Shujah ul Dowlah upon the same Scale with the Map of Bengal transmitted to you by Captain Purvis

Accompanying this you will be pleased to receive a Duplicate of my last Address and its enclosures.

I have the honor of remaining, Gentlemen,

Fort William  
26th November 1768

Your most devoted  
faithful Servt.  
H. Verelst.

*P.S.*—The enclosed Packet for the Ambassador of France and which I deemed most proper to convey through your hands was sent to me by the Governor of Chandernagore.

H. Verelst.

25

LETTER DATED 3 JANUARY 1769

*Shipping news—resignation of Sykes*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

We had the Honor to Address you last in Duplicate under date the 18th Ulto. by the Ships Verelst & Kent.

You were then acquainted Gentn. with our Intentions to dispatch the Queen the middle of this month but as We had a Cargo Ready for her in the Warehouse & shall have another Ready by that time for the Salisbury We judged it would be more Agreeable to you to have the former Ship sent away immediately & she now accordingly proceeds on her Voyage & the Salisbury will follow in a Short time.

As We shall then do ourselves the Honor of writing to you under the Established Heads & transmit you the Compleat Setts of our Consultations & Letters & as nothing material has occurred since our last We shall only send by this Ship a few necessary Papers agreeable to her List of Packet.

We are sorry to inform you that We have Rec'd Advice from Fort St. George of a very severe Gale of Wind which happened the 30th Octr. & which hath done much damage The Chatham was Obligated to Stand out to Sea & has not since been heard of tho' the Gentn. there acquaint us they were not under the least apprehension for her as She lay very far in the Offing & was entirely prepared for the Gale Your Schooner the Plassey in which we put three Lacks of Rupees was foundered but fortunately She had Landed the Treasure The Admiral Watson sailed four days before the Gale came on & by private Advices We have the pleasure to hear of her safe Arrival at Cochin.

The Dutton Rec'd her dispatches for Fort St. George about 8 days ago & the Ankerwyke proceeded at the same time to Bombay in order to be docked.

The Shrewsbury & Thames which the Gentn. of the latter Presidency have destined to be sent Round to us are not yet Arrived but we are in daily Expectation of them. We have granted to Capt. George Stainforth a Sett of Certificates for the Amount of 35585-8-9 C Rs. paid into the Treasury & to Capt. David Rice we also granted a Sett for C Rs. 25442-6-6.

We have laden Sundry Goods & Merchandize on this Ship to the Amount of C Rs. 8,31,400 agreeably to Invoice & Bill of Lading.

And for the use of your Island of St. Helena We have laden Stores amounting to C Rs. 1505-11-6.

The Ballance this day in your Treasury Amounts to C Rs. 14,58,393-6-6. And of your Cash to C Rs. 2,24,179-5-9.

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your Faithful & most obedient  
Humble Servants  
H. Verelst/Francis Sykes/Richd. Becher/  
James Alexander/Thomas Rumbold/  
Charles Floyer/Francis Charlton.

Fort William  
3rd January 1769

*Postscript*—Since closing this Letter Mr. Sykes has Requested leave to Resign your Service as his ill State of Health Renders a change of Climate Absolutely necessary We have accordingly granted him Permission & he now takes his Passage on this Ship Copy of the

Letter he addressed to us on the occasion goes a number in the Packet.

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your faithful Humble Servants  
H. Verelst/James Alexander/Thomas  
Rumbold/Charles Floyer/Francis  
Charlton.

Fort William  
the 5th Jan'y. 1769.

## 26

## LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1769

*New treaty with Shuja-ud-Daulah—King and Vazir reconciled—territorial adjustments regarded necessary before the third brigade could be removed—king to receive part of his tribute in gold mohurs—negotiations with Janoji.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We had the honor to address you last under date the 21st November, in two copies by the Ships Verelst and Kent, a Triplicate whereof now waits on you by the Queen.

2. It is with great pleasure we embrace the opportunity which the present conveyance affords us, to inform you that our deputies to his Majesty and the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah have hitherto met with every desired success in the course of their Negotiations. His excellency gave them the Meeting at Benares where many days passed in conferences on the Subject of the late Jealousies subsisting between us; which at length happily terminated in the conclusion of a new Treaty with him on the 28th November The Steady measures adopted and pursued in thus bringing the Nabob to an explanation have not a little contributed to his ready acquiescence to the most essential parts of our just pretensions and the tender regard which the Gentlemen of the deputation have shewn for his honor in the reduction of his forces, at the same time that they have consulted the future security of these Provinces, we flatter ourselves will meet with that approbation from you which we have testified to them on the occasion—By the stipulated reduction of the Nabob's

forces he is still permitted to retain a number which will ever render him respectable among the Powers of Hindostan though in no degree sufficiently formidable to trouble the repose of these Provinces—This we may hope will rather be productive of a confidential regard on our part than create in us future suspicions of the Nabob's ambitious views, since it admits not a doubt that he can now form no projects but what we shall have in our power to controul

3 The President has been informed that the Nabob accompanied the Deputies to Allahabad and was received in the Royal Presence in quality of Vizier, with every mark of distinction due to his Station in the Empire, and afterwards returned to his Dominions, with his Majesty's Permission to return to Allahabad at the approaching Festival of the Mahomedans—We hope this will tend to conciliate the long differences which have subsisted between them on the subject of the Vizierut

4 When we considered the very peremptory orders you were pleased to send us for confining solely our views within these Provinces—tho' sensible how impolitic an immediate obedience to your Commands, and how far they must at present be from answering the salutary purpose of solid and permanent security to your valuable possessions yet we were desirous of embracing the opportunity of our deputies being so near the Royal Presence to make such an attempt towards the execution of your orders as appeared to us most likely to effect your purpose and we have therefore recommended to your consideration how far His Majesty's giving up Korah to Sujah ul Dowlah in exchange for the Circars of Gauzepoor & Benares, and the Nabob's ceding to him the fortress of Chunar may be suitable to the one & the other.

5 From the temper of mind and situation of the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah we flatter ourselves he will be inclinable to Cultivate our Friendship and no longer prove refractory or deaf to our remonstrances, and His Majesty not less attentive to our Advice—The situation of the Present Royal Domains lies too much within the Country of Sujah ul Dowlah, in so much that should he ever come to an open rupture with him, to support his Majesty as Allies to the throne we must march through an Enemy's Country, and thereby subject our Troops to many very apparent inconveniencies—The Present annual Revenue of Korah exceeds those of Gauzepore and Benares, six or seven Laaks of Rupees, this may prove a temptation to Sujah ul Dowlah particularly if he considers how very compact his Territories will from hence become

6 The Nabob has frequently since he ceded the Fort of Allahabad to his Majesty complained of the want of some place for



the security of his family and a Capital for himself 'The King's restoring that Fortress may be a strong inducement for the Nabob to embrace this proposal, and to give up Chunar in Exchange, which will be a strong barrier to us, when in possession of His Majesty—The Pergunnahs at present possessed by the Bundelcund Rajah may be appropriated for his Majesty's use—to make good the difference between his present possessions and those of Bulwan Sing provided they are not thought to be at too great a distance for his purpose if that should be the case, 'Tarror' or some lands contiguous to Bulwan Sing's Country may be asked for from Sujah ul Dowlah as a compensation for the Territories ceded by His Majesty.

7. If such a scheme can be effected, our Troops may be withdrawn into these Provinces; the King may possibly follow them; and thereby will be saved not only the Annual drain of Treasure for the payment of the Tribute and the subsistence of your Troops; which has with other demands nearly exhausted the wealth of this Country, and reduced it to the greatest distress; but the Currency of Silver Specie will be increased by an importation of the Sums Collected from the Revenues of Gauzepore & other Countries as well as those arising from every emolument the Throne may enjoy—Should any future hostile preparations be made against his Majesty or us—We may then the more easily unite our Forces against our common Enemy: as the proximity of His Majesty's possessions would form a second barrier to our own and with double security free them from all the inconveniencies of a War.

8. It is probable from superstitious motives, that his Majesty may be induced to think this a disgrace, as it carries with it the appearance of a retreat from his Capital his long favorite object.—But to this we might represent his more immediate security, by a junction with us; the imaginary prospect of our marching at some future time with accumulated Treasures & force in his Support; the ideas that such an Union must create in the Courts of Hindostan; and the necessity we are under from the positive injunctions we have received of recalling the 3rd Brigade from Allahabad.

9. Another objection to this plan may be made by his Majesty setting forth the impropriety or dishonor of exchanging his Present Royal possessions for those of a Zemindarry guaranteed by us, whose Rents cannot be increased, and where no Jagheers can be granted. To this may be represented the annexed Pergunnah at present possessed by the Hindaput Rajah, or such Lands as may be further granted to him; which protected by us will enable him to bestow rewards on those whom he may chuse to honor with a Provision; and the more ready and immediate payment of the rents from Bulwan

king will enable him more honorably to support his Army than he now does by his present mode of Payments

10 We have communicated the foregoing observations to the deputies at Allahabad, and have desired they may be regarded more as hints than bearing a tendency to any digested Plan and we hope soon to receive their opinion on them—for it must be from the lights we may obtain from them that we shall form a judgement of the practicability of those measures

11 The present distressful state of this Country proceeding from the scarcity of Silver specie has induced us to direct those Gentlemen to issue their orders for receiving all sums which may be procured in Sujah ul Dowlah's dominions for defraying the expences of the third brigade stationed there and that the Paymaster do grant Bills for such sums received on the Military Paymaster General in Calcutta payable as usual at five days sight and it had been also recommended to them to prevail on his Majesty to accept of Gold Mohurs of the late Currency in part payment of the Tribute, at a reasonable exchange for which purpose we have sent some coined at the Mints of Calcutta and Moorshedabad in order that this matter may be more easily adjusted

12 In our letter under date the 29th February last we informed you that we had transmitted to Janoojee one of the Mahratta Chiefs some proposals for a Treaty of Peace and the Cession of Orissa, We have lately received his reply to them and although his demands appear too extravagant for us to accede to yet we are assured by his Vaqueel that he will very chearfully acquiesce in every reasonable demand we can make being desirous of putting an end to a negotiation which has been so long depending—We have therefore taken the subject a second time into our most serious consideration and have finally resolved on such proposals being made to that Potentate as we deem most consistent with your honor and the future security of your valuable possessions as well in Bengal as on the Coast of Choromandel—Our deliberations were in consequence of your late orders submitted to the consideration of the President and Council and having been by them approved—articles for a Treaty are drawing out in order to be executed on the part of the Nabob and the English Company—For further particulars relative thereto permit us to refer you to our proceedings which wait on you by this conveyance, having only on this occasion to assure you that we have paid a strict attention to those orders wherein you direct that no Treaty be entered into but with the Principal Power—And that Janoojee is the only person with whom we can with propriety enter into a Treaty cannot be doubted, since the Treaty for the payment of Chout was

first entered into by Aliverdy Cawn with his father Ranooje (?) and was on his death confirmed by Janoojee alone.

13. At the time we were deliberating on the terms proposed by Janoojee, we received advices from the Secret Department at Fort St. George relative to the Operations of the War against Hyder Ali, and expressing their apprehensions of Mhadowwow's (*sic*) marching into the Carnatic to his assistance which circumstance is corroborated by advices lately transmitted them from Mr. Brome, Resident at the Mahratta Court at Poonah—Their situation appears to us so critical, that to ensure a lasting peace and tranquility to your possessions on the Coast of Choromandel we were of opinion the utmost efforts of this Comm'ee should be exerted in the support of the present war against Hyder Ali and that every means should be made use of to prevent his encrease of power by a junction with the Mahrattas—A junction which would not only render the event of the War dubious, but would likewise deprive the Company of the Revenues they now collect from the Carnatic and oblige us to drain this exhausted Country of still greater supplies of Treasure, which must in such case be consumed in the course of a long and tedious War, instead of being applied to the purposes of our several investments in India.

14. From the late conduct of Hyder Ali we cannot see a prospect of the Gentlemen at Madras being able to conclude a peace with him upon honorable terms which can promise to be secure and permanent—For in the present situation of Affairs, should the war be put an end to Hyder would be left more formidable than he was at the commencement of it—His credit would be exalted in all the Courts of Hindostan from his having singly withstood the utmost efforts of the English Arms on the Coast; and the fame of ours would consequently be diminished by their receding from the contest, after so long and obstinate a struggle; and nothing less could be expected than a recommencet. of troubles on the part of Hyder Ali, as soon as he had recruited his forces and brought the Mahrattas and Nizam Ali to unite their forces with his such an event might be productive of the most fatal consequences to your Affairs for Hyder politic and discerning would be cautious to avoid any oversights or errors which he may have committed in the course of the present War; he would be no doubt active in improving the discipline of his Troops; and actuated by a spirit of revenge and sensible also that the security of his own possessions could only be ensured by our ruin; no efforts which policy and courage might suggest, or which ambition or despair might inspire, would be wanting on the part of that potentate.

15. A still more cogent reason bids us beware of his growing

Power—By advices from Madras under date the 31st August last, it appears that the Gentlemen there entertained strong suspicions that the French at Pondichery were carrying on intrigues at his Court & that they have promised him assistance from Europe or the Island of Mauritius And when we reflect on the grand preparations of that Nation at the latter place, the number of its forces there, and the increase of its shipping in India, it is most probable that the French may join Hyder Ali should the opportunity of subduing him be lost—Such circumstance added to those already mentioned might involve your Affairs in India, even beyond a possibility of retrieving them

16 However desirous the Gentlemen at Madras may be to put an end to so destructive and expensive a war, we apprehend they have not within themselves those resources requisite for effecting it, without hazarding your possessions at some future time—We are therefore the more readily induced to come to an immediate conclusion with Janoojee observing as a basis the Cession of Orissa—His well known jealousy of and differences with Mhadaverow (against whom he is endeavoring to support an independency must secure him most effectually in your interests) A Treaty thus concluded will cause a decision (*sic*) of the Mahratta Power a diminution of their territorial possessions and consequently of their natural strength, and the friendship of Janoojee secured by the annual payment of a stipulated sum his possessions will become a barrier to these provinces agst the incursions of other external Western Powers without subjecting us to the necessity of applying for their forces as auxiliaries and thereby exposing your possessions a prey to their rapacity—And farther it cannot be doubted such a treaty will sow dissensions among the Mahratta Chiefs and may thereby occasion such a mutual decrease of their strength as may bring them to a level with, if not in subjection to, some of the other Powers of Hindostan, which will leave your extensive Territories in perfect state of repose and security

17 The nominal authority of the King, the power of his Vizier, & that part of our Forces now stationed at Allahabad may if your affairs on the Coast should require it, be effectually interposed, as the bare report of such a junction by the feint of a march towards the Territories of Madaverow which lay open and must be exposed to us should he march to Hyder's assistance, may not only deter him from accepting his offers but induce him to consult the immediate safety of his own possessions through our Friendship—The Force of Janooje who has lately solicited the Kings Sunnuds or such Lands as he may conquer from Mhardevarow, joined or seconded by the detachment under the Command of Colonel Peach in the Deccan which has long lain at a considerable expense in a

state of inactivity, may be usefully employed should Mahdevarow take the part of Hyder Ali or should the Subah wantonly and weakly engage in new Enterprizes against the Tranquility of the Carnatic so formidable and unexpected a junction in that quarter must soon compel Hyder to terms of accommodation if not subject his Territories to certain Ruin.

18. The strongest motives for our having adopted these sentiments are the deprivation of Hyder's hopes and our fears of his effecting a junction with the French, Nizam Ali and Madaverow; by which steps the influence you at present possess in the cabinets of all the Powers of Hindostan would most probably revert to our natural European Rivals; and the consequences of such an evil are too apparent to require elucidation.

19. It is therefore our unanimous opinion founded upon the most mature deliberation that a fortunate issue to a Treaty with Janoojee would be productive of the advantages we have herein pointed out and most probably of speedy concessions from Hyder Ali upon such Terms as the Gentlemen at Madras may Judge necessary to impose for the future safety and Tranquility of your possessions or those of your allies, on the coast of Choromandel and therefore we have resolved that no delays shall be occasioned on our part to effect a purpose which tends so evidently to the advantage of your affairs and which necessity alone has compelled us to adopt.

20. Although we are very desirous to assist the Gentlemen at Madras on every occasion where your welfare is concerned; yet it is alone the urgent and very critical state of your affairs there, that can possibly induce us to deviate from that system of policy we have hitherto observed and would gladly continue of confining our views to our present possessions, and of avoiding all distant and extensive operations which must in some degree subject our acquisitions to danger by a division of your force—Such are the sentiments we communicated to your Presidency at Fort St. George when we laid before them the measures which appeared to us most proper to be pursued in the present situation of their Affairs, and we requested their opinions thereon, before we finally determined on a matter of such importance.

21. As the most minute transactions of your Select Committee since the departure of the Verelst and Kent are entered upon the proceedings which we have the honor to transmit to you by this conveyance We beg leave to refer thereto for your further information.

22. The Snow Asia on which we informed you in our last advices, the President and Council had embarked Three Laaks of

Rupees for the Presidency of Fort St George is returned hither with her Treasure—Your Ship Dutton has carried Six Laaks of Rupees of the late Gold Currency to Madras to answer their urgent occasions, which with the remittances by the Admiral Watson and Plassey Schooner will we hope prove a seasonable relief to their distress

23 Mr Sykes has resigned his seat at the Select Committee, and purposes on account of his ill state of health to take his passage to Europe on the Queen—We must in justice to that Gentleman, express our entire satisfaction of his conduct during the time he was employed in the Station of Resident at the Durbar, and our concern at the necessity which compels him to quit your Service

24 Mr Becher who was appointed by the President and Council to the Post of Resident at the Durbar, has proceeded to his station

We have the honor to subscribe Ourselves with great Respect,

Fort William  
6th January, 1769

Honorable Sirs  
Your Faithful & most  
Obedient humble Servants  
H Verelst/Chas Sykes/Chas Floyer

27

LETTER DATED 3 (13th.?) JANUARY 1769

*Alexander appointed in place of Sykes—Cartier back to the Presidency with his colleagues—approbation of their conduct as members of the deputation*

**T**O the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon ble Sirs,

Nothing Material having occurred since our last advices under date the 6th Ultimo a duplicate of which we have now the honor to transmit you we flatter ourselves will sufficiently apologize for the conciseness of this address, more particularly as we have omitted no opportunity during the course of this season, of making you

fully acquainted with every matter of importance which has come under our consideration.

The resignation of Mr. Sykes having caused a vacant seat in your Select Committee Mr. Alexander was appointed to fill it and has accordingly taken his seat, after having the usual oath of secrecy administered to him.

Mr. Cartier has returned to the Presidency and has laid before us the original Treaty lately entered into by the deputation with the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah together with a separate agreement written by the Nabob himself, wherein he promises to reduce his Forces to the number specified in the Treaty within the space of three Months—It is with pleasure we inform you that his Majesty expressed great satisfaction at the Treaty and was graciously pleased to ratify it with the Royal Sign Manual.

We should do injustice to Messrs. Cartier Smith and Russell were we not to express our entire approbation of their conduct during their late deputation and we doubt not but you will be pleased to regard it in the same point of view.

By this conveyance we have the honor to transmit to you a complete set of our proceedings and of Letters sent and received for the last year & to subscribe ourselves with the utmost respect.

Hon'ble Sirs

Your faithful & most

Obedient humble Servants

Fort William

[?3rd January 1769.]

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Jas. Alexander/  
Chas. Floyer.

## LETTER DATED 2 FEBRUARY 1769

*A plea for putting pilot service on the most respectable footing—a complaint of extortion from pykars—promise of ample investment notwithstanding serious encumbrances—re: trade with Bettiah country—a Dutch complaint—a French outrage—Company's works to be henceforth done by contract—levy of municipal rates from the European inhabitants of Calcutta—Rennell's establishment augmented—appointment of a "perpetual" zemindar explained—Becher, Resident at the Durbar, to have a deputy—some suggestions re: distribution of shares of commission on net revenues—President of*

*the "Judicial Court of Cutchery" dismissed—Bolts forcibly taken to ship for embarkation—servants of the Company getting no benefit from orders re remittances—unable to supply bullion for China investment*

**T**O the Hon ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon ble Sirs

1 We have had the pleasure to receive your commands under date the 20th November & 2d December 1767, the 12th of January the 16th of March and 5th of April 1768, together with two Letters from your Secretary dated the 20th January and 30th March 1768

2 We have already done ourselves the honour to write to you—By the Valentine under date the 18th & 24th September—By the Verelst & Kent the 28th November 1768—By the Queen the 3rd January 1769—And by this Ship the Salisbury We shall more fully reply to your several Letters and give you a further Detail of your Service, which we shall arrange under the usual Heads and

### *First of Shipping*

3 We are very sensible how essential it is both to your Service and to the Private Trade of India to have the Pilot Service put on the most respectable footing possible & this consideration joined with that of knowing it is your wish it should be so make us very anxious to adopt a Plan that will best Answer this purpose & your intentions

4 Your Sentiments on this Subject were communicated to our Master Attendant who seems to think the plan observed by the Gentlemen at Bombay is the most eligible—The multiplicity of other important matters we have had to attend to—Has hitherto prevented our digesting & compleating a plan for the Pilot Service but it is an Object we shall keep in view & be one of the first to come under our consideration

5 Mr Page Keble at the same time that he gave us his Sentiments on this Subject proposed to us having our Pilot Sloops built here instead of at Bombay This is a scheme we have long wished to accomplish, as the length of time they are in building at Bombay—The risk of the Voyage, & the unavoidable delay it is attended with having them built there Subject us to great Inconveniences



--We therefore ordered a Plan and Section of one that he deemed of the best Construction for this Service to be laid before us—And the draughts of two were presented to us in Consultation the 7th of November—& the Estimate of their Expence in that of the 15th of the same Month.

6. Upon Comparing this Estimate with the cost of those built at Bombay we were pleased to find that we could build them as cheap or rather cheaper than they would since the Difference of Expence was very trifling those at Bombay amounting to C. Rs. 23496-13-9 And the one intended to be built here with double suits of Sails and all other Stores amounting to C. Rs. 25754.

7. The only Objections that could be made to having sloops built here being obviated We resolved to make the Experiment; and accordingly gave orders to have two built agreeable to the plans that had been presented to us this work is now performing under the Inspection of a person whose skill in this Branch has been recommended to us by the Master Attendant and we hope it may be the means of introducing an Art Beneficial to you & of general Utility.

8. In the 35th Paragraph of our Letter under date the 13th September we informed you a proper Enquiry should be made into the Conduct of the Pilot who had charge of the Ankerwyke.

9. We accordingly summon'd a Court of Enquiry, consisting of the Master Attendant two of the ablest Commander's in the place & two Pilots who having strictly examined into the cause of the accident which happened to that Ship laid their proceedings before us in Consultation the 13th of October wherein they entirely acquit him of any neglect or of being Culpable for this Accident.

10. The Pilot was Mr. James Agden who being a Man distinguished for his Diligence Sobriety & capacity, & being thus acquitted we have continued him in his former Station.

11. You will observe Gentlemen that on several of the Ships which carried Treasure to Madrass there has been some deficiencies (*sic*)—We called upon our Sub Treasurer to explain the cause from whence these had arisen; who gave us a very explicit Answer which is entered in our Consultation 22nd August and to prevent any Loss accruing to you in future on this Account we have given directions that the Captain or Purser of the Vessel on which any Treasure may be put to be present when the money is counted & give a receipt for the amount when deliver'd to his care.

12. The Snow Asia on which in the Month of April last We laded three lacks of Rupees for Madrass was unsuccessful in her

attempt to get to that Presidency & at last was driven over to Pegue she return'd from thence the 27th November without having been able to put in at Fort St George upon her Arrival We order'd the Treasure to be relanded & have since sent it with three Lacks more on the Dutton —

13 We have already informed you Honble Sirs that the Damages which the Ankerwyke sustained were so material as to render it necessary she should be sent to Bombay to be docked, that she has proceeded on her Voyage & that we dismissed her  
 CONSIDER 17th Augst your Service As soon as her repairs are compleated Captm Ross tenderd her to us to be employed on your Account—Although we knew she could not have been sufficiently repaired to justify us in accepting his Offer yet we imagined there could not be the leest risk in sending Salt Petre on her to Bombay—We ordered the Master Attendant to survey her & to be particular in his report to us with regard to this circumstance—which he accordingly did upon his giving it as his Opinion We might with safety send Salt Petre by her We loaded three three thousand Bags upon her—the like quantity has been sent on the Crescent a Country Ship & 4000 Bags on the Vansittart for the use of that Presidency

14 The Thames arrived with us the 25th Instant and as we have before acquainted you we shall send her to the coast with such a quantity of Goods as with the Surplus that we calculate will remain after the Dutton has taken in her Charter Party of Tonnage, will compleat her homeward bound Cargo —

15 Her Cargo from Bombay consists of Cotton, Woolen Goods & the Gunpowder sent out for us on the Bute the former of which we shall dispose of as soon as it is in our power

16 The Shrewsbury is not yet imported but is daily expected as they left Bombay together & parted off Ceylon, she will be dispatched Directly to England & it is with peculiar satisfaction Gentlemen we can assure you we have the fairest prospect of having the hopes we have expressed to you in our former Letter accomplished & of returning the whole of your Ships by the End of March —

17 The Remainder of the Indent received from the Gentlemen at Fort Marlbro in 1767 we took the opportunity of sending on the Snow Nelly a private Vessel which was offered to us for this purpose

18 Your Snow the Diligent belonging to that Presidency & which we informed you in the 26th Paragraph of our Letter dated the 13th September last had made two unsuccessful attempts to come round hither arrived safely with us the 12th December She was

immediately put under the charge of the Master Attendant who having recommended to us to employ her in the Pilot Service & to be fit for it we have order'd her to be repair'd for that purpose.

19. An Account of the wages due to the Crew was laid before us the 27th December & order'd to be discharged.

20. The Gentlemen at Madrass judging it of material Consequence to have a Supply of Provisions always in Store sent us an Indent of the Articles they desired to be furnished  
 Consn. 12 Decr. with immediately your Ship the Dutton being then under dispatch for that Presidency we had the several Articles sent round on her except Rice of which from the great scarcity that prevailed we could not procure any Quantity without detaining the Ship which we thought had better not be done as she was carrying a supply of Treasure which they represented to us to be in great want of.

21. They also desired at the same time not to have any more Salt Petre sent round to them But as we could not unlade any of the Duttons without a considerable Detention, She  
 Consn. 12 Decr. carried the 3000 Bags that had been laden on Board her previous to the receipt of their request.

22. We still continue our Surveys of the Shoals & Sands to the Eastward & hope to compleat them this Season—But we have been under the necessity of increasing the pay to the owners of the Sloops employed in this Service @ 100 Rs. P Month—as we could not prevail on any persons to undertake it for the allowance granted heretofore, & which they were actually losers by.

23. Captain Ross of the Ankerwyke having requested to be supplied with money on the Terms of Charter Party—We advanced him 8000 Rupees & agreably to your commands  
 Consn. 6 Decr. of the 21st November 67. We took three receipts of him in which it is inserted the rate of Exchange shall be 2s. 3d. one of these receipts make a Number in the Packet & a Second shall be sent to you by the next Ship.

24. The Master Attendant having represented to us that you were put to a very heavy & useless Expence in repairs for your Yacht the Apollo & Sloop Luckypore. We  
 Consn. 27 Decr. order'd them to be Sold.

25. Your Ship the St. Helena, which we informed you in the 17th Paragraph of our Letter of the 15th September 1768 was gone to Pegue—is just returned from her voyage with a compleat Cargo of Timbers & Planks amounting to [.....]

26. As we are of Opinion a Considerable expence may be saved you by employing this Ship in the Pegue Trade to bring Timbers from thence for the use of your works, We have directed her to be unloaded as fast as possible in order that she may proceed thither for a Cargo—and the Committee of Works to inform us what sort will be the most usefull for her to bring from thence

27. It will also afford us a favourable Opportunity which we shall embrace of sending the remainder of the provisions to Madrass we informed you in the 20th Paragraph we could not procure in Time for the Dutton & we purpose likewise to lade four Lacks of Rupees on her for the use of that Presidency—

*Secondly of Goods from Europe or from one Part of India to another.*

28 The Export Warehouse Keeper in Consultation the 28th September deliver'd in an Account Sale of the Damaged & Ferret Goods which we had the honor to inform you in the 15 Paragraph of our Letter dated the 13th September last we had order'd him to sell at publick Outcry he has however since informed us that the great scarcity of money which at present prevails in the settlement, Obliged the purchasers to tender Companys Interest Notes in payment for the Goods which we have accepted—

29 You have been pleased Gentlemen to reflect on our Conduct in resolving not to Indent to Bombay for Covi Cordage in Consequence of a proposal from our Master Attendant to contract for it—We beg leave to assure You it was from no other motive that we were led to it—than a Conviction that at that time the latter method was more conducive to your Interest than the former as will appear in our Consultation of the 7th of July 1766—

30 However since you think it otherwise, and as we are happy at all times to obey your Commands we shall in future Indent to Bombay for these Articles—But as we cannot be supplied with them before July or August next we judged the most eligible way for procuring you a present supply would be to advertise for proposals for contracting for a sufficient Quantity for the Expence of twelve months & we have accordingly published an Advertisement for this purpose

31 Induced by the same motives we have come to a Resolution of having the materials not only for your  
 Consn 4th Octr works but for all your different Offices  
 28 Novr supplied by Contract—Proposals for furnishing  
 19 Decr stores for your works have been made &  
 accepted—But none have yet been deliver'd in for supplying  
 your Offices—

32. As we deemed it likewise more for your Interest to have the Subordinates supplied with all the Europe Articles they might want from the Presidency out of your Store houses, we directed the Gentlemen to Indent to us for all Articles of this kind.

33. The Gentlemen at Madrass informed us they were under the necessity of landing the Gunpowder consigned to us on the Dutton & Queen—Captain Stainforth only delivered one hundred & Six Barrells, whereas your Invoice mentions one hundred & ten—In consequence of which we called upon him for this deficiency and he informed us that having no receipt for four of the number of Barrells he engaged to deliver only 106.—And upon a reference to his Bill of Lading we found his representation just & that he had then made an Exception to four Barrells.—

34. It was with great surprize & concern that we observed from the proof of Ordnance laid before us in Consultation the 27th of December that out of 26 pieces of Cannon only 5 proved Serviceable & our concern on this occasion was increased upon comparing the quantity of Powder they had been tried with and that you inform us Established for Proof.

35. This we attribute to the Commissary of Stores not being furnished with the Directions you have sent out at the time he proved the Guns which we impute to the absence of the Military Store Keeper upon the Deputation.

36. It is needless to urge to you Gentlemen the necessity of preserving your valuable Possessions & Acquisitions in this Country, and how greatly a well appointed Artillery will conduce to this grand object—as it may be considered a principal strength of your Army—We must therefore particularly entreat of you to send us the following Brass pieces of Cannon Prs 6-20—Prs 12-20—Prs 18-20—Prs 24-10 as we have only thirtyfive in Garrison and all your Brigades are more or less in want of Artillery—However to prevent any mistakes in future we shall direct the Commandant of the Garrison the Commander of Artillery—The Commanding Officer of Engineers & Commissary to be present at the Proofs.—

37. We are greatly distressed for Mathematical Instruments both in the Artillery Branch & for Surveys and we therefore most earnestly request Gentlemen you will be pleased to send us an ample supply by the Ships of next Season.

### *Thirdly of Investment*

38. The President who superintends the Export Warehouse in Mr. Cartier's Absence, reported to us that he examined the Patterns

for Chintz<sup>1</sup> you have sent out this Year & directed some Blocks to be cut in Consequence, But he is apprehensive they cannot be which is requisite to give the impression of the  
 Consn 7 Octr executed in this Country with that exactness Pattern so clear & neat as those you have sent out as you Observe Novelty is the greatest recommendation we request you will send us annually a variety of Blocks formed from the newest Patterns which we are also of Opinion will tend considerably to the improvement of the Investment of Chintzs

39 In a Letter we received from Our Chief & Council at Cossimbuzar the 4th August We were informed some complaints had been preferred by the Bauleah Pykars<sup>2</sup> against  
 Consn 4 Augst Kissen Caunt Pauteah the acting Dewan & Cantoo Biswass your head Pykar for Oppressions & extortions

40 We immediately orderd the strictest Scrutiny to be made into these abuses, and from the Enquiry of our Chief of Cossimbuzar & the confession of Kissen Caunt Pauteah [Pauttuck], who had acted as Bannias [Banyan] to Mr Forbes during the Gentlemans residence at Bauleah it appears to  
 Consn 4 Augst the amount of One Lack twelve thousand three hundred & fifty Six Rupees Six Annaes had been taken from the Pykars & others under the Denomination of presents & other pretences, but at the same time he  
 Consn 28 Sept'r affirmed that only twenty or three & twenty thousand Rupees were received for his own use & that he himself received & paid to Mr Forbes the Remainder —

41 We have entered a prosecution on the Mayor's Court against Mr Forbes for those Parts in his Conduct wherein we think the Law can avail us, in order to recover what he has so unwarrantably accumulated—The Suit is now carrying on & Mr Forbes is bound in the Sum of CRs 300,000—not to quit the Country untill it is decided—or if he does to leave sufficient Sums to Answer the Demands we shall have to make on him if he is cast—We have also insisted on Kissen Caunt Pauteah's refunding the sum he acknowledges to have received —

42 Apprehensive least your Investment might suffer from an Examination of these complaints made at Cossimbuzar by calling the Pykars away from their business, and willing at  
 Consn 28 [Sept'r] the same time, that these complaints should be fully & clearly investigated, We thought the best Method to avoid the former & accomplish the latter, was for the Chief of Cossimbuzar to proceed to Bauleah & enquire into all these complaints—which

he accordingly did—& has been employed there on this occasion for some time past.

43. We are extremely anxious to give the Pykars the most ample redress for the oppressions & Extortions they have Suffered, as it will impress the natives with the Idea of our Justice, & by resenting, & discouraging these Acts of Abuses convince them that their Ease & Welfare are the Objects of our Attention wherever our Authority extends.

Consn. 28 [Sept.]

44. And that this might appear to them We directed the Chief of Cossimbuzar to acquaint the Sufferers that if they would empower us to enter a Prosecution against Mr. Forbes in their Behalf We would try every possible means that the Law puts in our power to recover & return the money which has been extorted from them.

Consn. 28 Sept.

45. In a Letter we received from our Chief of Cossimbuzar the 27th Decr., he informs us he finds the Complaints of a most intricate, & Complicated Nature—& that the Pykars seem Now to prosecute them with reluctance—We have ordered Kissen Caunt Pauteah to the Presidency as we imagine we shall be able to obtain a more accurate & minute account of these Transactions than even our Council at Cossimbuzar can, and untill his arrival we cannot furnish You with a more explicit detail of them than what will appear to you from the Several references to our Consultations & Letters—And these we flatter ourselves will entirely evince to you Gentlemen that abuses when detected will meet with our keenest Resentment, that to prevent their being committed is our peculiar Care & that we are as ready to redress as discourage them.

Consn. 27 Decr.

46. The low state of your Treasury occasioned by the very large Sums of money sent to the Coast & China prevented timely Supplies being sent to the Aurungs for the latter part of so large an Investment as will be required for the several Ships intended for Europe this Season.

47. But sensible how Solicitous you are to have all your Ships returned & to realize as large a part of your Revenues as possible we have taken the resolution of purchasing such ready money goods in Calcutta as may be procured reasonable & we judge will best Answer the Europe Market—and untill the state of our Treasury will admit of it to grant Interest Notes for all Such goods as may be thus bought.

Consn. 27 Decr.

48. Nor will you Gentlemen be at all surprized at the Reasons for this Resolution when we inform you that no less a sum than

41.32 995 119 hath been sent to the Coast for the support of the war there and the use of the China Investment besides the very heavy unavoidable expences of the Presidency & your Army—on the Contrary we flatter ourselves that the very ample Investment which we shall send you home this Year notwithstanding these incumbrances will convince you that we have strictly adhered to the assurance we have made you of exerting our utmost endeavours for the improvement & Extension of this most valuable Branch

*Fourthly of the Trade of India the Country Government, European Powers &c —*

49 We have not hitherto been able to afford any thing material relative to the Trade into Bateah & the Eastern Parts Bordering in China The very wild & uncivilized state of the several Bordering Provinces must be an impediment to our discoveries & establishment of a Trade unless it is supported at first by the appearance of some Force the Situation of your Affairs on the Coast & rumors of Disturbances to the Northward has induced us to keep the whole of your Force as compact as possible—But we are of Opinion that when the publick Tranquility is restored and the Inhabitants on our Borders are become more acquainted with us that a valuable trade may be established to these Parts

50 We have this Year received two dispatches of fir Timbers from the Batteah Country which we have reason to imagine from  
 Consn 7 Novr Mr Rumbold's account of them are preferable to those sent last Year—But as the quality of them cannot be justly judged of immediately after their having been floated from so distant a part We have ordered the survey of them to be deferred until they are throughly dry

51 The Gentlemen at Patna being in doubt whether your restrictions for the Inland trade had a regard to goods that had been purchased before the receipt of them desired to know whether they might grant Dustucks for the removal of such goods to the Calcutta Market & Perwannahs for collecting such Ballances as were outstanding

52 As we did not conceive that your Orders for restricting the Inland trade alluded to such Transactions we granted them this permission But with a particular caution not to grant any Dustucks but for such goods as were actually contracted for before your orders were received & provided within the Limits prescribed in our Letter of the 18th June

53 In the 60th Paragraph of our Letter dated the 13th September 1768 we informed you the Dutch had Complained to us



of a murder & Robbery that had been committed in the Burdwan Districts—After having made the strictest Enquirys into this Affair

Consn. 27 Decr. We found it impossible to ascertain whether the fact was committed in the Burdwan or Houghly District—In Order therefore to accommodate this matter in the most equitable & Amicable manner, we promised to use our Interest with the Rajah of Burdwan to pay half the Sum their Servants were robbed of provided the Houghly District paid the other as it is the Custom of the Country that the District where a Robbery is committed shall make good to the sufferer his losses.

54. A very extraordinary Complaint was preferr'd to us by our Chief & Council at Dacca of some Disturbances & even violences

Consn. 28 Septr. Committed by a Party of armed Sepoys belonging to the French which Mr. Dangereux the Chief thought proper to send through the Limits of our Factory without previously obtaining the permission or even informing our Chief of it—The Particular Circumstances of this outrage are very fully set forth in our Consultation of the 28th of September & to those we beg leave to refer you.

55. The insult offered by Mr. Dangereux in presuming to lead an Armed force through the Limits of the Factory, we could look upon in no other light than a tendency to

Consn. 28 Septr. infringe that Harmony & Unanimity we have ever been studious to preserve, and as a gross abuse of that power and those Indulgencies the French Nation have received from the Lenity of your Government and in this Light we represented it to the Gentlemen at Chandernagore and insisted on an Ample & immediate reparation for the insult that had been offered to our Flag.—

56. The Answer we received to this Application for redress was by no means Satisfactory and notwithstanding they neither invalidated the proofs sent us of Mr. Dangereux's unjustifiable Conduct nor exculpated him for his behaviour,—yet were we unwilling to come to a final Determination upon this matter whilst the smallest plea they had to urge in behalf of Mr. Dangereux remained not fully enquired into.—

57. And as in this Answer they had alledged some of Mr. Wilkins's people were the aggressors & in support of this Allegation

Consn. 7 Novr. produced a certificate said to be signed by some of our own Servants we sent it to the Gentlemen at Dacca for their Information, and desired them to acquaint us very particularly who the persons were that signed this Certificate

what Character they bore & how far their Authority was to be relied on—and to obtain every Information in their power—which when we receive will enable us to determine finally on this Affair. In the mean time you may be assured the most attentive Eye shall be kept on the Conduct of the French & in no case whatever shall they be suffered to infringe or the Restrictions of the Treaty —

58. In the 51st Paragraph of our Letter dated the 13th September we informed you the Ministers had engaged to furnish us with Timbers from the Aurungs at about 8 Rupees & a half each a Considerable quantity of these Timbers have been accordingly provided at this price—but the water suddenly falling low, have render'd it impossible for any more of them to be sent down to us this Season

59 Thus Gentlemen have we the satisfaction to see the result of our measures crown'd with the Success we desired—since by restricting the Trade the Aurungs & having the Timbers provided by the Ministers we have procured a sufficient stock for the Supply of all your Offices, at 8 Rupees & a half whereas formerly you used to pay more than treble that sum

60 The Gentlemen at Cossimbuzar being deprived of the Supplies expected from thence for the use of the Cantonments at Burrampore on Account of the Lowness of the Rivers applied to us for permission to purchase such as may be fit for service at the Buzar Price—and we have allowed them to purchase such a quantity only as may be deemed absolutely necessary to prevent the works being retarded untill the Season will admit of those procured by the Governor being sent down from the Morung Country

#### *Fifthly of Fortifications, Buildings and Revenues*

61 The completion of the New Fort is an Object we are very anxious for particularly as you seem so strenuous for it—And the means to Accomplish it in the most expeditious manner and at the least Expence were fully debated in our Consultations of the 7th & 13th of June—18th & 20th July

62 In the 79th Paragraph of our Letter dated the 13th September we informed you of our having come to the Resolution of constructing Ravelins—As we have Experienced that carrying on your works by contract is the most Eligible Plan we have contracted for digging the excavations of the Ditches—And issued proposals for finishing the Brick work of them as also of the Glacis in the same manner.

63. And that we may not suffer any Delay or be retarded in the Execution of these works we have entered into contracts for the providing of Bricks & Chunam.—We have also  
 Consn. 24 Octr. accepted proposals for finishing your Canton-  
 31st Octr. 12 Decr. 19 ments at Burrampore by contract & shall if it is  
 Decr. in our power carry on all your Works in this mode as we find it is in every respect both in point of expedition & saving you Expence the best that we can possibly fall upon.

64. In the 85th Paragraph of the same Letter we acquainted you that we remitted the penalty incurred by the Birck Contractors on certain Conditions Upon an Application from one of the Persons and as a long period of time hath elapsed since the expiration of the contract without the least proof of their having supplied any private persons with Bricks we Agreed to repeal a former order we had passed the 7th November & to absolve the Contractors entirely from the Penalty they had entered into.

65. Previous to our coming to a final Determination on the method of making and repairing the Roads and the appointment of a surveyor for the management of that  
 Consn. 26 Augst. business, we thought it necessary to have the opinion of the most able Lawyer in the place on these points—whether & how far we as President & Council or as a Bench of Justices had a Right to assess or levy any Scavanger's Rates from the European Inhabitants for the purposes of defraying the Expences of making & repairing Roads or drains within the Town or any other Expence that might be incurred in regulating the police of the place.

66. Mr. Holmes the Register was accordingly consulted and gave it as his opinion that we had a right as Justices of the Peace to make an Assessment not exceeding Six pence  
 Consn. 13 Augst. in the pound—in consequence of which we order'd the Collector General to draw out a Rent Roll of every Inhabitants possessions in the Town and a List of His Houses specifying the Rent of each house in order that we may be able to determine what rate we shall fix the assessment at.

67. But this will be a work of some time & untill it is compleated we have directed him to keep the  
 Consn. 13 Augst. Charges incurred on this Account a head in his Books, and to be as careful as possible.

68. In our Consultation of the 6th Decr. we took into Consideration the last & only Points of the Collector General's Letter on the Calcutta Lands that had not been finally discussed—and these were making the new Gunge at Sootanooty<sup>s</sup> & the village at

Sunlah<sup>4</sup>, and deciding on the claims made by Narrain Sing & Ringheer<sup>5</sup> for spots of Ground from them when the Esplanade to the Fort was first made after which they had never received any Compensation

69 With regard to the first point we directed him to continue to issue the necessary Advances for making this new Gunge and to lay before us an Estimate of what he imagines the whole Expence of this undertaking will amount to that we may consider & determine on the means of reimbursing the Company—With respect to the latter point as the Spots of Grounds which were claimed, even within the line of the Esplanade we could not restore them to the Claimants—at the same time equity required the proprietors should have some recompence made them for being dispossessed of their Lands We therefore ordered the Ground to be valued & such an Allowance made them as it was deemed worth

70 You have been informed Gentlemen of our having proposed to the Rajah of Burdwan the Sum of 30 Lacks of Rupees as the Malguzarry of that Province for the present Year, and we judged according to our then Calculation it might very reasonably be demanded—But from a Minute delivered in by the Collector General in Consultation the 27th December in Consequence of some Objections made by the Rajah to this Sum we found we had not allowed for the following Charges The Expence of his Troops The Article of Muskorat or Kings Allowance to him as Zemindar & the Charges of the Pooni—and which when naturally examining into we thought should be paid out of the Collections we did not therefore hesitate to recede from our former demand & to ask of him only thirty Six Lacks & a half & this is an encrease of two Lacks on the highest rent you have received from this Province & this Sum we have the pleasure to acquaint you he has readily acquiesced to

71 The Collector General in Consultation the 12th December laid before us a Letter on the Subject of clearing Junguls & cultivating waste Land which is at present under our Consideration

72 From a Declaration of our Chief Engineer made in a Letter of his entered in Consultation the 20th July, we had great reason to apprehend our Stores in the Garrison  
 Consn 20 July were in a very bad Condition & we therefore ordered them to be immediately Surveyd by the Military Store Keeper, Chief Engineer & Commandant of the Garrison

73 But from a report delivered in by them in Consultation the 31st October we were agreeably relieved from this apprehension, as it appeared that the number of unserviceable  
 Consn 31 Augst stores were trifling and inconsiderable—& could

not but consider the Engineers report premature, imprudent & erroneous.

74. These Gentlemen at the time they delivered in this report also recommended some regulations for the better security & preservation of the stores—which appeared to us extremely proper and necessary and we therefore order'd them to be put into execution.

75. The Naval Store Keeper having represented to us in a Letter entered in consultation the 13th December that he was straighten'd for Room in the marine Yard desired  
 Consn. 12 Decr. an Adjacent piece of Ground to be enclosed in with a Wall that the Stores might be lodged there with safety—and at the same time recommended to us that they should be kept under tiled Roofs and not thatched Sheds as at present which are liable to fire and often want repairs.

76. We did not see the necessity of having the Spot of ground walled round & therefore order'd it to be railed in only—but consented to having the Companys stores kept under tiled roofs for the reasons he alledged & to guard against the accidents that are to be apprehended.

77. In consequence of the Regulation made in Consultation the 4th of July relative to the Surveyors, Captain Rennell the Surveyor General addressed us on the occasion and represented to us that it was utterly impossible to pursue the business with the small number of Assistants Lascars—Coolies Hircarrahs allotted in that Establishment at the same time delivered in an Estimate of the necessary expences attending them.

78. As this Estimate of Captain Rennells is founded upon Experience & he assures us calculated with the utmost accuracy that the small addition proposed by the Surveyor General was not an Object to be put in Competition with the material Consequence it is to you to have this Branch of business properly conducted we consented to augment the Surveyor's Charges agreeably to Captain Rennells proposals—But we by no means approve of any Innovation upon our Regulations nor should we have receded from them but from the opinion we entertained of Captain Rennells Integrity, Judgment & frugality and that an Addition to the allowance before was absolutely necessary.

79. We send you by this Ship three Calcutta Gold Mohurs—3 Calcutta Sicca Rupees & 3 Arcott Rupees taken Indiscriminately by the President out of the Treasury.

*Sixthly & Seventhly of Covenant and Military  
Servants & Accounts*

80 In the 117th Paragraph of our Letter of the 13th September last we informed you Colonel Smith had represented to us the Situation of the Surgeon of the Army in having been deprived by your late orders of the advantages they before derived from a Share of the Salt Trade without any adequate Consideration being made to them & that We thought their case merited our Consideration

81 The necessity of giving every reasonable encouragement to men of Abilities in their professions must be apparent to you  
Gentlemen, and we have not the least doubt but  
Consn 22nd Sept you will acquiesce in and confirm to them the allowance we have made them in Consultation the 22nd September

82 The Surgeons of the Presidency being in the same Predica  
ment remonstrated to us likewise & from the  
Consn 28 Novr same motives we also consented to allow them the like proportion of the Commission

83 At the time you permitted the Salt Trade they were allowed to share in it equally with the Majors of the Army & you Gentlemen approved the Regulation The same reasons for granting them some particular Indulgence still Subsist And upon this plea We have allowed them to share in the Commission on your Revenues equally with the Majors

84 The Military Pay Master General having represented to us that the business of his Office was so far behind hand it was impossible for the Assistants under him to bring it up and carry on the Current Business at the same time From the great want of Servants we were under the Necessity of breaking through our regulation & to consent to his employing Monthly Assistants from the same necessity we have been obliged to employ them in several other Offices

85 The business of this Settlement has of late Years so much encreased & the charge of your Affairs is now become so important that the greatest attention & Abilities are requisite for the proper discharge of the Trust of its several departments We must therefore request that you will be pleased to encrease the number of your Civil Servants by a nomination of at least 20 writers & that you may the more immediately reap the Benefit of their Services—Young Gentle men of 18 instead of 16 Years of Age We think promise the best to be of immediate and real Service

86 We must acknowledge the appearance of Neglect in not stating our reasons more fully for appointing a perpetual Zemindar

—We now beg leave to explain them to you—This Post is a very laborious one—The multiplicity of business in its Judicial Department requires almost an uninterrupted attention—We had at the time of this appointment few members at the Board & those few burthen'd with several Offices which render'd it impossible for them to take charge of a Post which as we have before observed is of itself sufficient Employment for any one person—These were our reasons & as by recurring to the list of Servants they must in some degree appear to you—by observing the small number of the Council & the Posts they hold—we were less attentive than we otherwise should have been in representing them to you. .

87. This Post however we deemed too important to be trusted entirely to the management of a Junior Servant and for the more proper discharge of it we resolved that the Members of the Board should inspect & superintend the Business in Rotation each Member to be received every 3 Months And an Acting Zemindar to be appointed under him which Station was conferred on Mr. John Grose—who has for a long time acted in the Office to our satisfaction.

88. The Appointment of Messrs. Barwell & Hurst in Council at Cossimbuzar rendered a Change of Appointments necessary at the Presidency and it was accordingly made in Consultation 28th September.

89. In Consequence of your orders that the Bonds taken from Messrs. Playdell, Middleton, Marriott, Watts, Lawrell & Graham should be given up they were accordingly redelivered to those Gentlemen & those who are at present in your Service were acquainted with your sentiment on the occasion.

90. Mr. Alexander Higginson whom you have been pleased to restore to your Service was accordingly admitted to his former Rank & hath requested we would acquaint you with the gratefull sense he entertains of this Indulgence & that he shall endeavour to merit it by his future Conduct & Give us leave Gentlemen at the same time to express the satisfaction we feel at the regard you have shewn to our recommendation of this Gentleman.

91. The Bad state of Health which your late Master Attendant Mr. Keble hath for some time laboured under obliged him to request of us permission to resign that Employment in order to return to England for the reestablishment of it and Mr. Henry Wedderburn in conformity to your Orders, has taken upon him the charge of that Office.

92. The Long & Faithfull Service of the former of these

Gentlemen—The Diligence, attention, & assiduity he hath always Shewn in the discharge of the important Trust of Master Attendant—renders him worthy of your favourable notice and we therefore beg leave to recommend him to you

93 Mr Richard Dean solicited this appointment, But as you  
 Consn 31st Octr had expressly nominated Mr Wedderburn it put  
 it out of our power to comply with his request

94 In Obedience to your Orders Mr William Majendie has made concessions perfectly to our satisfaction which stand recorded in our Consultation of the 7th of November—And as We have every reason to be convinced of the sincerity of his professions we restored him to the Service conformably to your Directions—And since that time we have appointed him in Council at Patna in the Room of Mr F[r]ancis Hare

95 Mr Sykes having requested permission to resign his station of Resident at the Durbar it was granted to him and a successor would have been immediately appointed—But a  
 Consn 18 Novr debate arose whether the Second should be fixed to the Presidency or permitted to accept of any vacancy out of it This being a point of some importance we determined to take the opinions of the whole Board previous to the appointment of a successor to Mr Sykes

96 Messrs Cartier Smith Russell & Sykes being considered to compose a part of the Board although they were at that time absent we wrote to them accordingly—and the majority  
 Consn 13 Novr  
 23 Decr being against the Seconds accepting any vacancy out of the Presidency & for his constantly residing in it We appointed Mr Becher to that Station & Mr Alexander to succeed him in the post of Collector General our Several Opinions on this Subject are entered in Consultation the 28th December & to there we beg leave to refer you for the particular reasons of fixing the Second to the Presidency on which we request to be favoured with your Sentiments for our future Guidance

97 As we were also of opinion that a Deputy Resident would be of essential Service to your affairs & would greatly contribute to the Relief of the Resident in the Duties of his laborious Employment—And as the Knowledge of Mr Robert Maddison has acquired of the Persian Language in which most of the Dewany Accounts are kept & the manner of transacting Business with the natives will afford him an Opportunity of being more Serviceable to you in this Station than his present one we have appointed him to it



98. The President laid before us a Letter from the Nabob which is entered in our Consultation of the 27th December & requested us to offer in his Name a present to Mr. Sykes in token of his Gratitude [and regard] to him & which that Gentleman had refused whilst he was at the City and would not then accept We have granted Mr. Sykes permission to accept this present until your pleasure is known & the Confirmation of it we beg leave Gentlemen to refer to your decision At the same time We desire to inform you that the Governor who examined the present has assured us he does not think that the value of it could exceed six thousand Rupees.

99. Mr. John Purling whom you granted permission to remain in England another Season after his appointment arrived here in the Month of October last was appointed an Assistant in the Secretary's Office.

100. The constant weight of business has hitherto prevented our forming a Military Code as you have recommended to us, But you may be assured Gentlemen we shall pay a proper attention to this Necessary Injunction of yours & put it in Execution as soon as it is in our power.

101. Captain Henry Watson your Field Engineer conceiving himself to be in some degree injured by your late appointments of Field Officers & particularly Majors Pearse & Lillyman both Juniors to him in his Majesty's Service, & one taken from the Corps in which he was his Superior not only in rank but length of Service remonstrated to us on this hardship & requested our Interposition in his behalf.

102. When you reflect Gentlemen on these Circumstances which he has pointed out to us when we inform you that this Officer hath distinguished himself by his Diligence and attention to the several trusts that have been reposed in him Since he has been in your Service, we doubt not but he will obtain from your hands that redress which he has solicited & which we think his merits & the peculiarity of his case entitle him to. It is in Justice to them that we now intercede in Captain Watson's behalf & beg leave to recommend him to you for promotion. But should you think proper to comply with this request we hope & desire it may not be of any Prejudice to Captain Pearson who is his superior Officer & would suffer an unmeritted Supercession.

103. Captains James Skinner, George Eyres Lieutenants Charles Maverley & James Ferguson have requested our permission to resign your Service & return to England on account of their Ill state of Health This Plea having been confirmed to us by the Certificates of the

Physicians who have attended them we have accordingly granted them permission

104 Captain Skinner & Lieutenant Maverley requested also that we would intercede with you to grant them the Indulgence of returning with their Rank to this Country should a change of Climate reestablish their health—Both these Officers are Gentlemen who have bore unblemished Character during the time they have been in your Service The former is absolutely Obligated to return to England on Account of an Obstinate disorder which the Physicians declare he cannot get the better of in this hot Climate & the Latter is under the necessity from the severe wounds he has received—We therefore hope should they Solicit this favour you would be pleased to grant it them—and we flatter ourselves Gentlemen you will be the more induced to grant it them when we assure you We deem them very deserving of this Indulgence

105 Mr James Capper whom you have been pleased to appoint a Captain on your Establishment at Madrass was immediately on the arrival of your Commands acquainted with them But for some time prevented paying obedience to them & repairing to his station by a severe fit of Sickness he is however since recover'd & hath proceeded to Madrass

106 In Answer to your Orders & remarks on the Books & Accounts of the Presidency which we informed you had been communicated to our Sub Accomptant he delivered in a Letter which is entered in our Consultation of the 11th October

107 The Article in your Books ending April 1766 of Contribution money the President informed us he learned from  
 Consn 11 Octr General Carnac that whilst the Army was in Sujah Dowlahs Country and acting against him this Sum was appropriated to the payment of the Troops as a part of the Revenues of the conquer'd Districts levied from the Inhabitants & this is the only Information we can Obtain of it

108 As we cannot obtain a more particular Information of the Bond for Curr't Rups 2570—which stands in your Books to the Debit of Bellamy & Mapletoft than what  
 Consn 11 Octr appears in the proceedings of the Committee of Inspection of the 18th April 1767—we have ordered it to be transferr'd to the Head of Money borrowed at Interest 1764—And as the Error of Dadney due from the Merchants in bringing in the name of Rachbehary Seat instead of Banjabenaut Seat<sup>s</sup> in the Books ending April 1764—must be imagine have been committed in Copying the Journals we have ordered it to be corrected in the present Books

109. The particulars which [compose] the Heads of Dadney due from the Merchants & Old outstanding Ballances are of so Old a Date that their original cannot be traced by the General Books commencing May 1758 nor can we give you any other Explanation than what the Heads themselves Indicate.

110. The sum of 1091989-1-6 which was added to the Ballance of the Cossimbuzar Factory we have order'd to continue still on the Books & the only Idea we can form of this very inconsiderable Ballance is that on the reestablishment of the Cossimbuzar Factory after the Capture of Calcutta The Gentlemen in opening their New Books have brought on to them as much of the Ballance of their former Books that were lost as they could recollect or get Information of—as the Company received Restitution for their several Losses we apprehend the Gentlemen should have brought in to their New Books the value of the Factory in its then State & such Goods & Effects as were recovered afterwards.

111. We applied to the Gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to furnish us with all the Lights they could Obtain regarding this Sum But for want of a Copy of the Books of that Factory Ending April 1766 they were unable to ascertain the particulars of this Sum or to form a Judgement whether any Debts are included We have therefore directed a Copy to be transmitted to them in order to assist them in their researches.

112. The Sub-Accomptant in a Letter he deliver'd in to us in consultation the 12th December represented that several Vessells remained on Ballance notwithstanding some had been disposed of & several were not in being—We therefore ordered him to write them off to Profit & Loss (except two called the Dragon & Watson which still remain) but for your Satisfaction & information to explain very particularly in the Journals the reasons for their being wrote off.

113. The Old Hospital was brought on Ballance in the last General Books at C Rs. 41554-1-3 but being almost entirely destroyed by a violent Storm The remains of it sold only for 414 Rupees & the Ballances of this Head we order'd also to be wrote off.

114. We have not yet been able to adjust the Accounts of Benaris Factory—but the Sub Accomptant is now employed in forming a statement from such Accounts as he can collect & we shall adjust them as soon as it is in our Power.

115. A House which was purchased of Mr. Hastings for Curr. Rups. 17280 and presented to the Nabob in March 1764 remaining

in Ballance in the General Books under the Head of Calcutta Town & Buildings we ordered it to be wrote off to Durbar Charges

116 Captain David Rice of the Dutton by Virtue of a Power of Attorney from Hugh Farrer Esq presented two Bonds to us for Payment with the Interest due thereon one for CRs 3485 3 3 dated the 31st of August 1765—& the other for Current Rupees 2000 dated the 24th January 1766 which were granted for the above Sums borrowed of Mr Hawkins on Account the Estate Lieutenant Farrer Deceased

117 We accordingly ordered them to be discharged with the Interest that was due from their respective dates to the 25th of August 1766—when it was agreed that Interest upon all your Bonds should cease

118 In obedience to your Orders we have directed the Resident at the Durbar to open a sett of Books from the 1st of May 1768—and to commence them as soon as possible the form by which they are to be modelled appears in our Consultation of the 17th October & to that we beg leave to refer you for your Information

119 Notwithstanding our repeated Orders to Colonel Martin your late Chief Engineer to finish the sett of Books we informed you in the 125 Paragraph of our Letter of the 18th September 1768 we had directed him to commence he has not yet thought proper to comply with them and urges in defence of his disobedience to your Orders that he is entirely unacquainted with this Branch of business—We cannot but think Colonel Martin's Conduct in this Affair very reprehensible

120 We have enquired into the particulars you desire to be informed of relative to the payment & renewal of two Bonds in the Names of Roger Drake Junr & John Browne on account of Captain Thomas Brown which are as follow

121 These two Bonds were discharged the 25th of July 1765—The Principal & Interest of both amounting to CRs 20206 7 9 The Interest being Calculated only to the 11th of the same Month on which Day the Treasury was debited for the above Sum & two Bonds issued in the names of Roger Drake Junr and John Browne one of which was for CRs 7515 5 [ ] & the other for CRs 12691 2 9 The principal & Interest of these two Bonds amounting to Curr Rupees 21046 2 [6] was paid to Mr Richard Barwell on the 18th January 1766—as attorney to Mr Beaumont who was the Attorney of Mr Roger Drake Junr

122 We have not yet been able to comply with your Orders

relative to the Restitution Account but they are at present under our Consideration & we shall endeavour to give you every satisfaction in our power by the latter Ship of this Season.

123. We have the pleasure to transmit you by this Packet the General Books ending April 1768—together with the Subsidiary one of Interest & Outcry compleated agreeably to the orders you have sent us.

124. The Diligence & attention of Mr. William Harwood your late Sub-Accomptant in the discharge of that important Office hath given us great satisfaction & met with our entire approbation and in Justice to his Merits we beg leave to recommend him to your Favourable notice.

125. A Bill for 400 Draught Bullocks employed in the months of January, February & March with the third Brigade was presented to us in Consultation the 16th May by the Contractor But the payment of it objected to by Colonel Smith upon the plea of his having given orders in the Month of January to the Contractors Agent to discharge them on Account of their being unfit for Service.

126. The Contractor was accordingly informed of this Circumstance and his Bill returned—But on the 30th of June he renewed his application—& laid before us an Extract of a Letter from his Agent, Positively Asserting that a number of these Bullocks which Colonel Smith had ordered to be discharged in January were employed by Sr. Robert Barker in the Months of February and March.

127. Hence it appear'd that there had been some Misapprehensions of Colonel Smiths order & we wrote to Sir Robert Barker to inform us what number of Bullocks was employed in Actual Service—what number he directed the Contractor to keep in readiness from the 22nd of January to the 31st March as we deemed it but Just the Contractor should be paid for the Number of Bullocks that were of actual Service.

128. This Account Sr. Robert Barker transmitted to us the 28th of September—and agreeably thereto the Contractor was order'd to be paid in Consultation the 27th December.

129. When the importance of this Government is considered by the Interest that yourselves and the Nation have in its prosperity, every mode of Support that can be given for its stability ought fully and impartially to be discussed—An uniformity of Conduct a proper support in the Executive power and an equality in the Distribution of Rewards—differed among the several Members that

compose your Board in General promise but to secure that harmony so essential to give weight to its Resolutions and preserve that Respect by which Government is to be maintained

130 When public Gratifications are made they are supposed to be marks for distinguished merit or pre eminence of Station—and when no particular Acts of the former are assigned they will always be considered in the latter point of view—As such Honble Sirs, we could wish that in appropriating the Shares of your Indulgence from the Revenues, You had not excluded the Chiefs of the Subordinates—Restricted in trade, as they as well as all your Servants have been by your late Directions they share a Burthen of the Publick Duty equally with those you have Indulged without any Superior Benefit—This hath been remonstrated to us by Mr Rumbold in his Letter entered in this Days Consultation, and hath induced us until your pleasure is known to allow them, restricted under Security to refund should it not meet your Approbation, the same proportion of your Indulgence as you have prescribed for the Members of the Council

131 From the above reasons it is we wish that the Council, being the immediate Directions of every Department both Civil & Military had stood distinguished in your Gratifications above every other not from any particular motive or desire to promote their own Interest and diminish the Shares of others—but to preserve that Degree of Rank & pre eminence of Station in which you yourselves have placed them The Instances we would refer to are a Colonel you have indulged with  $2\frac{1}{2}$  shares a Member of the Board & Lieutenant Colonel  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Shares

132 The additional Share allowed to Mr Rumbold was granted to him in Consideration of the Additional trouble & attention he has as Supravisor of the Bahar Collections, which bears a near proportion to the allowance you have been pleased to make to the Resident at the Durbar from a similar Consideration

133 An Account of the Commission arising on the Nett Revenues from the 1st of September 1767 to the 1st of September 1768—goes a number in the Packet and the Distribution thereof we flatter ourselves you will find has been made conformably to your Orders—The Ballance of Rupees 13003 10 11 being the unappropriated Commission we had, prior to our Resolution respecting the Chiefs of Subordinates who are Members of your Council, directed to be carried to that Head in your General Books But as this Ballance will be insufficient to Answer that purpose we shall be under the Necessity of accounting the difference out of the present growing unappropriated Commission & which we hope will meet

with your Approbation—And permit us here Gentlemen to return you our warmest Thanks for your Bounty & kind Consideration of us in this Instance.

134. The Judicial Court of Cutcherry having Discovered that a Bond of one Meer Ashruffs which had been deposited with them had been clandestinely convey'd away—And was in the hands of an Attorney at Law who was suing Meer Ashruff for the amount of this Bond went through an Examination of this matter and upon Enquiry found the President of the Court had delivered up this Bond of his own accord without acquainting them with this Transaction.

135. Their Proceedings on this Occasion were laid before us in Consultation the 5th October from whence it appeared to us that Mr. Hewitt the President had acted so very unbecoming a part in delivering up this Bond without the Consent of the Court—that he ought not to be continued in that trust any longer & We accordingly dismissed him from it.

136. The Import Warehouse keeper laid before us a Sett of Books compleatly Ballanced from May 1766 to April 1767—which meeting with our Approbation we desired him  
 Consn. 18th May. to complete a Sett in the same form until April 1768—He has accordingly ballanced another sett to that period which makes a number in the Book Packet—They Correspond with the General Books & we doubt not but they will meet with yours as well as they have with our Approbation.

### *Charter*

137. As we are doubtfull how far the Charter Allows of Cognizance being taken of Murders Robberies & other misdemeanors which may be committed by Europeans not immediately under our Flag at the Presidency or Subordinates, but may elope & find their way into other parts of these Provinces, we request you will procure for our Evidence such Instructions on this Subject as may distinctly point out our Authority in future.

### *Supplement*

138. Your Orders & Instructions relative to making Observations on the Transit of the Planet Venus over the Disk of the Sun have been circulated to all the Subordinates & the Commander in Chief & every measure in our power taken in Order to promote your Intentions & those of the Royal Society.

139. The Agents to the Army Donation in a Letter Entered

in Consultation the 2nd January requested payment of the Ballance still remaining but as your former orders have not been Countermanded we could not comply with their request

140 We could wish however Gentlemen that this prohibition may be annulled, nor indeed can we admit a doubt but it will, when we inform you that in the height of the general Mutiny near the Carumnassah—The Officers directed their Agents to issue the whole amount of the Donation allotted to the Soldiers & Sepoys—as the most probable means to quell it—and as much as was in the hands of the Agents then with the Army was distributed on the spot—And we are informed had the wished for Effect

141 What remained to make up their full Shares was paid out of the first money received from the Nabob so that the Ballance which is now due falls entirely on the Officers—How Partially hard it would be even these Gentlemen to suffer for generously giving up their shares for the publick Good & to prevent those fatal Consequences that were to be after tendered—it is needless to point to you nor can we doubt but you will acquiesce to our discharging the Ballance upon this representation

142 Mr Lowe a Gentleman who for some Years past has been stationed at Gangam for the better dispatch of Letters & from Madrass lost all his effects since the late  
 Consn 6 Decr Commotions Upon the Coast by the Incursion of [Naryin?] Diu into those parts and applied to us to grant him since Restitution on this Account

143 We thought this Case was hard & merited our Consideration but at the same time did not look upon ourselves authorized to make him that restitution he required—This  
 Consn 20 July we beg leave to refer to you Gentlemen and at the same time to remark to you that we think his having been employed so long on your Account is a Plea in his favour—Indeed We judged it so much so that we appointed him an Assistant in the Accomptants Office untill your pleasure is known whether any Compensation is to be granted him for the Losses he has sustained

144 At the representation of Colonel Smith who informed Us there remained thirty four Draughts Bullocks of those provided by the Government at the request of the Select Committee unfit for Service which continued a monthly Expence to you We order d them to be disposed of

145 In the 28th Paragraph of our Letter of the 14th September 1767—We informed you the Factory House at Patna, and a great part of this City had been destroyed by fire, which



obliged the Gentlemen there to reside at Bankypore untill proper habitations could be procured They have fixed on the Kellah to build a new Factory House upon—& Submitted two Plans to our Consideration one of Captain Watsons & one of Captain Dugloss's. The former appearing to us the most eligible we have directed them to build one according to it.

146. We have the honour to send you Number's in this Packet the Indents from the several Offices & request they may be fully compiled with.

147. We have duly honor'd the several Bills of Exchange you have drawn upon us this Season and enclose you a Register of the same.

148. In our additional Letter by the Valentine dated the 24th September last we acquainted you that we had been informed Mr. Bolts had prepared himself for the Voyage—& had every Necessary ready in order to embark—And as a Corroborating proof of the Injustice of this Information We have enclosed the Deposition of Captain Coxo who seized & carried him down to the Ship.

149. In our Letter by the Valentine of the 18th September we acquainted you Gentlemen we should particularly reply to the one written by Mr. Bolts & sent you by that Ship—It is however so notoriously false—& the Character of the Man so base—that we think it needless to enter into a minute denial of Assertions evidently dictated by malice & resentment more especially as we are convinced these Assertions will have no great weight with you.

150. The President who he has particularly reflected upon conceives it to be so derogatory to his Rank & Station & so much beneath his Character which he flatters himself is too well established to be effected by the Assertion of Mr. Bolts—At the same time he deems it so totally unnecessary to refute what he cannot suppose will ever be credited—That he shall only renew his former Declaration "That every Assertion contained in Mr. Bolts's Letter which tends to reflect on his Character is infamously Scandalous & false."

151. To prevent the great inconveniences which we should suffer were you to put an entire stop to our remittances through your Cash you have been pleased to allow Bills to be drawn on you to the extent of £70,000 directing to be included in this Sum Lord Clives Jagheer, the returns for Coral & the amount of Certificates granted to the Captains & Officers of your Shipping.

152. We are fully sensible of your good Intentions in this seeming Indulgence to your Servants & from your tender & Justice

we flatter ourselves, that on our reminding You that Lord Clives Jighceer, the Returns for Coral Consignments & the Certificates to the Officers of your Ships, exceed the Sum which we are circumscribed You will be convinced that your Servants can reap no benefit from your Orders—Again Gentlemen, had you left us an opportunity of remitting our Fortunes, the rate of 2 Shillings Pr Rupee at which you have fix'd the Exchange would be depriving your Servants of about  $\frac{1}{9}$  part of the real value of their Fortunes, if compared with the remittance by Foreign Nations

153 Upon an Affair so material to both the Publick & the private Interest allow us to expostulate with a decent & becoming freedom

154 By this limitation of remittances & your other Commands we are excluded from even the hopes of returning to our native Country after having for a series of years promoted your Service & Interest at the expence of our healths & Constitutions during such a period we may reasonably expect as our due a competent Independancy for ourselves in Expectation which you have encouraged and an Object which you have pointed out as a reward for our fatigue & Labour—but of what avail is such a recompence if deprived of sending it home & enjoying it in the Society of our Relations & friends—Can you Gentlemen expect that Zeal that activity amongst your Servants, when they behold themselves doomed to linger out the remains of a shattered Constitution in this distant & unwholesome Country

155 We have ever considered your Cash as the proper Channel for remittances, but we will not further urge with what degree of concern we at present behold it shut, surely Gentlemen in so distressing a Situation you cannot deem your Servants culpable should they apply to Foreigners for that Assistance which is either denied them by you or burthened with a draw back too heavy for them to suffer

156 Private Grievances however material are not the only inconveniences which might accrue from so distressing a measure—The Country from whence your Interest is to be principally supported is nearly exhausted of its Bullion its decrease can only be supplied by the European Nations but whilst they find resources from Individuals for their Investments for Bills on Europe, can it be expected it will run that risk & Expence—Your Orders to the contrary can be of little effect however strictly enforced—for the Contrivances of Necessity will far exceeds (*sic*) the Acts of detection—This flow of Cash into Foreign Treasuries will enable them to encrease their Investments by early supplies to the Aurungs, an

Advantage which must more or less prove detrimental to your Commerce beyond a possibility of prevention on our part.

157. Mr. Cartier has desired us to express his gratefull Sentiments of the honor done him in his appointment to succeed Mr. Verelst in the Government—He begs leave to assure you as far as his power extends it shall ever be executed with the warmest Zeal to promote the true Interest of the Hon'ble Company—He begs leave further to inform you that tho it was his full determination of returning to Europe this Year—the honor done him in nominating him to the Succession obliges him to drop this Resolution, till you are pleased to appoint him a Successor, which he requests may be done by one of Your Early Ships.

158. Our Separate Consultations on the Subject of the overcharges at Burrampore make a Number in the Book Packet—By which you will perceive that Messrs. Palk & Vanrixtel, have agreed to refund the amount of their overcharges—These two Gentlemen we have continued in your Service untill your pleasure is known & hope our Reasons for so doing will Justify our Lenity towards them—Mr. Williamson has delivered in his defence But as he has called upon several Witnesses who reside at Cossimbuzar to support some of his Assertions—We thought it would be just that he should have every opportunity offered him of vindicating his Conduct—and have therefore ordered these witnesses to the Presidency.

159. They are not yet arrived, which has prevented our passing Judgment on this Gentleman & finally concluding our Consultations on this Subject The Superintendent of the Cantonments being connected with the Buxeys employ—We have suspended our Judgment on Lieutenant Mestayer also untill we have fully enquired into Mr. Williamsons Conduct, as we shall then be more Competent Judges of his likewise.

160. In our Letter of the 22nd February 1768 we acquainted You how much it would in future be out of our power to supply Bullion for your China Investment every Circumstance that hath since occurred hath more fully served to convince us of the impracticability of it We therefore most earnestly wish you may have provided for the Necessary supplies to that Market which the distressed Situation of this Country & the heavy demands made on us for the Support of your Presidency on the Coast prevents our Complying with it.

161. The Madeira and Vidonia Wine imported this Season on the Ships Verelst, Kent and Dutton having been duly inspected turns out as follows,

Madeira Pr Verelst 75 Pipes Deducted for		
filling the Deficiency by Leakage	11 Pipes	64
Madeira Pr Kent 75 Pipes		
Deducted as above	11 Pipes	64
		<hr/>
		128
Deducted sent to the Presidency at		
Fort Marlbro'		10
		<hr/>
		118
Vidonia Pr Dutton 100 Pipes		
Deducted for filling the		
Deficiency by Leakage — 8 Do		
Total Pipes	118	92
		<hr/>

162 The Leakage has proceeded from the Badness of the Casks & the Wines are much the same & full as good as last Season — A Distribution of the Madeira Wine has been made amongst your Civil & Military Servants on the same terms as it was last Year

163 We must here Gentlemen beg leave to recommend to you not to send out any more Vidonia Wine as it is not of so wholesome a quality as Madeira & no Body, as you will perceive by the great remains Chooses to purchase it, although We have frequently put it up at Publick Outcry

164 We have drawn on you by the Ship the Salisbury three setts of Bills of Exchange at 90 Days sight & 2 Shillings P Current Rupee Vizt

One Sett in the name of Mr Henry		£Str
Grant payable to John Duff or		
Order for Current Rupees	1000	100
Ditto Ditto Ditto		
payable to John Carnac or order	2500	250
Ditto Ditto Ditto		
payable to Mrs Alice Mc Veagh		
or order for	1000	100
		<hr/>
	Currt Rs	4 500
		£ 450
		<hr/>

165 The Ballance in your Treasury this day is Currt Rupees 22,14,359 15 9 & in your Cash Chest Currt Rupees 28,481 10 9





166. We have laden on Board this Ship Goods to the amount of Curr. Rupees 7,91200 & Stores for the Island of Saint Helena amounting to Curr. Rups. 1552-12-0.

167. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that Since writing the former part of this Letter The Shrewsbury imported with us & the Necessary Orders have been issued for unloading her.

We are with Respect

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your faithfull &

Obedient Servants,

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Jas. Alexander/

Thomas Rumbold/Charles Floyer/

Francis Charlton.

Fort William,

The 2nd of February, 1769.

## 29

### LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1769

*Shah Alam disappointed at having received no acknowledgement of his letter and presents to George III.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Ct. of Directors &c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Russell who is just arrived from Allahabad has communicated to me a particular circumstance which I think worthy of your notice and which has induced me to trouble you with this short Letter.

He informs me that the King has expressed great uneasiness at having received no Answer from the King of England to his Letters, or acknowledgements of his Presents; and the more so as he has been informed that one of his Subjects the Nabob of Arcot has been honored by our King with an answer to his Letter accompanied by a complimentary Present.

This observation His Majesty has indeed made to me several times but as it was rather slightly hinted I had hitherto passed it over in hopes of seeing some notice taken of the very valuable marks of esteem from Shah Alum to His Brittanic Majesty.

Had the Presents passed through your hands as they should

have done had they been sent during my Government I doubt not but you would have procured an answer from our King and considering the Service His Majesty Shah Alum has rendered to the Company and to the Nation by the Grants of our present possessions and the sanction of his name and authority on every occasion permit me to observe that our honor and gratitude may even good policy require an exertion of your influence for the procuring of an answer to his Letters and some return from His Majesty for such Royal Presents as the King of Indostan has desired his acceptance of

Leaving it to your determination I have the honor to remain

Fort William,  
17th February 1769

Gentlemen,  
Yr Faithful humble Servt  
H Verelst

## 30

## LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1769

*Steps taken against delinquents for overcharges at Berhampore  
—the case discussed*

**T**O the Hon ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon ble United East India Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 We had the honor to address you last under date the 2nd Instant, by the Salisbury Duplicate of which Letter goes enclosed

2 The Talbot having received her full Lading for Europe now proceeds on her Voyage—The Thames on Board of which we purpose Lading 349 Tons will sail for Fort St George in a day or two, as the whole of her Cargo hath been sent from hence & she hath taken in the most part of it—and the Shrewsbury's Cargo being now ready in the warehouse we hope to dispatch her to you the Latter end of this Month

3 We have accepted a sett of Bills on the Gentlemen at Bombay from Mr James Lister for the amount of the annual fund you have been pleased to allow your Servants at that Presidency & which you have directed to be paid out of the Revenues of this Country



4. We have finished our enquiry into the overcharges made at Burrampore, and now transmit you the last Consultation on that Subject which with those sent by the Salisbury compleats the whole of our proceedings—The Compleat sett we shall do ourselves the honor to send you by the Shrewsbury.

5. We have before acquainted you with the dismissal of Mr. Forbes and our Reasons for it The Gentlemen of the Committee of Enquiry in their Letter entered in our seperate Consultations of the 4th October represented us in behalf of Mr. Van Rixtel that when they called upon him to deliver in his Accounts during the six weeks he acted as Buxey, he not only immediately gave them up but with great Candour informed them of every Circumstance he was acquainted with, expressed the utmost concern for his Conduct and voluntarily offer'd to give up every Emolument he had made—In consideration of this plea urged in behalf of Mr. Van Rixtel & being induced to think from these Circumstances that he was unwarily drawn into the Error more from Examp[les?] than want of principle We have continued him in the Service & at the Factory at Cossimbuzar.

6. Messrs. Williamson & Palk and Lieutenant Mestayer we have also continued in your Service untill your Pleasure is Known, but continued them to the Presidency with the restriction of their not being employed in any Office nor filling any post untill we are acquainted with your Determination on their Conduct And we must beg leave to remark to you that a small Error hath been committed in transcribing our resolution on Mr. Palk's Conduct which is altered & rectified in our compleat Sett of seperate Consultations.

7. At a time Gentlemen when we flatter'd ourselves that the strictest justice was done to you in every Department It was with the deepest concern that we discovered such a transaction, & found ourselves deceived in these pleasing Notions But from your Candour we yet hope that the Indiscretions of a few will not give you any unfavourable Idea of the Integrity of the whole—Abuses & Depravity may & will creep into the most perfect Government; and the utmost vigilance to detect & curb them will sometimes be eluded—But permit us to assure you Gentlemen that the most diligent attention on our part shall be most faithfully & constantly exerted to prevent every abuse and to promote that Integrity amongst your Servants which is so essential to your Interest and Wellfare.

8. Messrs. Palk & Mestayers have voluntarily offer'd to refund the Sums they have acquired by their overcharges & we have called upon Mr. Williamson to do the same.

9. From the Enquirys we have made into this matter it appears to us that Lieutenant Colonel Martin hath been highly Culpable in reporting to the Chief & Council at Cossimbuzar that he had actually Survey'd 4000 Saul Timbers belonging to Mr. Williamson and particularly describing their dimensions & Qualities when it is Evident from the proceedings of the Committee of Enquiry that Gentleman had not 800 on the Spot belonging to him It is also very evident that by this unfaithfull report you have been grossly imposed on & put to a very exorbitant & needles Expence for Timbers that were neither in being nor wanted, and that from this report the imposition seems to have arisen as had he not reported these Timbers to be particularly wanted & Calculated for the use of the Cantonments the purchase would not have been made—Had Colonel Martin been now in your Service, We should have thought it our Indispensible Duty to have dismissed him for this very reprehensible Conduct.

10. Previous to the arrival of your Covenants of last Season We had promoted Mr. Nathaniel Kindersley to the Rank of Major of Artillery—Upon the Resignation of Lieutenant Colonel Martin, Major Pearse naturally imagined we should proinote Major Kindersley to the command of that Corps & from the Views & Expectations with which he left England, conceived himself in some Degree entitled to this Rank and accordingly Solicited it.

11. His plea we acknowledge to be sufficient to induce him to make this remonstrance, & his case we think rather hard—But we also think it would have been a piece of Injustice to Major Kindersley as well as an Inconsistency in our own Conduct to deprive him of the rank he was entitled to from the Commission we had granted him—As he had obtained this Rank at our Hands we thought it necessary to support it—And as he has during a course of 4 Years Service acquitted himself entirely to our Satisfaction, We were of opinion he was entitled to the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel in preference to Major Pearse & have accordingly granted it to him & given him the command of the Artillery—At the same time we promised Major Pearse to acquaint you with his pretensions to this Rank & the application he made to us which you will find in a Letter from that Gentleman in Consultation the 23rd February & a Copy of which goes a number in the packet.

12. Lieutenant Colonel A. Morgan to whose further rise you have been pleased to put a Bar, remonstrated to us upon this occasion and requested us to represent his Case to you—As he hath always borne a favourable Character during the time he has been in your Service we beg leave to recommend his case to your Consideration & to enclose a Copy of his Letter a number in the packet.

13. Mr. Charlton, in a Letter enter'd in our Consultation the 20th Ulto. requested to be indulged with a share of the Commission on the Revenues on the plea of his having a right to fill the vacancy in Council occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Campbell Although Mr. Charlton was not admitted to a seat at the Board untill nine Months after the vacancy on account of the restrictions you had been pleased to lay us under yet in consideration of the peculiar hardship of his case We were of opinion equity required that he should be allowed to share in the Commission from the time that he was entitled thereto by Mr. Campbells resignation—and for this reason have granted him an equal proportion of the same with the other Members of the Board from that Period—but restricted as the Chiefs of Subordinates under Security to refund the same should this Resolution not meet with Your Approbation—which however we hope & flatter ourselves it will.

14. As Mr. Floyer superintended the Office of Military Store-Keeper during the Absence of Mr. Russell on the late Deputation, he deemed it incumbent on him to acquaint you with the causes of the Error committed by Mr. Bennett the acting Commissary in his late proof of Cannon & accordingly delivered in a minute wherein he has elucidated this matter very Clearly to him we beg leave to refer you.

15. We have received a Letter from the Supra Cargoes at Canton representing the low state of the Treasury to us & the distress they should be in for want of money for the next years Investment We have already very fully acquainted you Gentleman with our Inability to supply them—and this we have also represented to them & likewise the reasons that have occasion'd it.

16. We have the pleasure to transmit you by this Ship the account you have directed us to furnish you with in the 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th & 60th Paragraphs of your General Letter under date the 20th Novr. 1767—This Account is made out in the Clearest & most explicit manner and we flatter ourselves will meet with your entire approbation and fully Answer the purposes for which you have requested it.

17. We have also sent you a Duplicate General Journal & Ledger for 1767/8.

18. We have transmitted you in this Packet an Additional Indent for ordnance to compleat the quantity we wrote for in the 36 Paragraph of the General Letter under date the 2nd of February—And which we request you will be pleased to comply with.

19. We have Lisenced on this Ship sundry Diamonds &

precious stones to the amount of Curr<sup>t</sup> Rupees—42,827 1—and also 117 Gold Mohurs in Specie—The particulars of which will appear in their respective Manifests

20 We send you in this Packet the medium price of Rice in the several Districts under the Collector Generals Department & at Moorshadabad for the last ten Years

21 The Ballance this day in your Treasury amounts to C Rs 25 34,680 8 9 and in your Cash Chest to C Rs 11,555 2 3

22 We have laden on this Ship Sundry Goods & Merchandize amounting to C Rs 8,95,100 agreeably to the Invoice enclosed

23 And for the use of your Island of St Helena we have laden Stores to the amount of C Rupees 1602 1

Fort William,  
the 2nd March 1769

We are &c

*Postscript* —Since closing your Letter Mr Charlton requested permission to resign your Service which we have accordingly complied with—The Reason of M<sup>r</sup> Charltons relinquishing the Service in the extream ill state of health he has for some time past laboured under & on which account the Physicians have declared a change of climate is absolutely necessary, nor would any other consideration have induced him to quit it so soon after being called to the publick station he lately held Copy of Mr Charltons Letter makes a number in the Packet

Mr Dacres hath also requested the like permission as his Affairs in England require his personal attendance there—And we beg leave to inform you that during the time this Gentleman hath been in Your Service he has always performed his Duty to the entire Satisfaction of his Superiors—Copy of his Letter also makes a number in the Packet

We have drawn on you the following Setts of Bills of Exchange at Ninety days sight & two Shillings the Current Rupee

Bills of Exchange granted Pr Talbot at 90 Days sight and 2 Shillings Current Rupee Dated the 2nd March 1769

£500

C Rs 5,000 payable to William Fullarton  
Value received from John Fullarton

50

C Rs 500 payable to Thomas Henchman  
value received of himself

100	...	C. Rs. 1000 payable to David Mackenzie value received of himself.
145	...	C. Rs. 1450 payable to David Mackenzie on Account of the Estate of John Ross value received of David Mackenzie.
50	...	C. Rs. 500 payable to Thomas Gladwin on account of Francis Gladwin value received of James Irwin.
150	...	C. Rs. 1500 payable to John Atchison value received from him.
106-11-1	...	C. Rs. 1065...8...1 payable to Roger Tyler value received of Messrs. Vansittart Darell & Holland.

We have also granted the following Certificates for returns of Coral.

To Messrs. Vansittart, Darell & Holland Pr. Sir Charles Hudson Commander of the Talbot 2nd March 1769—

1 Sett to Messrs. Nathan & Hananiel [Modigliani?] in full return for 1 Chest Coral Beads DS/F No. 17 Pr. Egmont . . . . .	2944... 7...8
1 Sett to Messrs. Jacob Moseh & Raphael Franco in full return for one Chest of Beads (B) No. 1 Pr. Earl of Elgin . . . . .	5785...10...9
1 Sett to Messrs. Jacob Moseh & Raphael Franco in full return for 1 Chest of beads RA/F No. 1 Pr. Northington . . . . .	1781... 1...[1?]
1 Sett Joseph Salvador in full return for 1 Chest of Coral Beads G. M. No. 13 Pr. Calcutta . . . . .	7388...10...9
1 Sett Judah Supino in full return for 1 Chest Coral Beads LL/S No. 7 Pr. Lord Camden . . . . .	3192...10...3
1 Sett Judah Supino in full return for 1 Chest Coral Beads LL/S No. 9 Pr. Lord Holland . . . . .	4366... 7...3
1 Sett Messrs. Nathan & Hananiel [Modigliani?] in full return for 1 Chest Coral Beads DS/F No. 16. Pr. Norfolk . . . . .	2090... 7...6

Currt. Rupees

27549... 7...3

And 1 Sett of Certificates granted to Sr. Charles Hudson Bart. Commander of the Talbot—On Account of Himself & Officers for C. Rs. 50,000 dated 2 March 1769.

We Are,  
Hon'ble Sirs

Fort William                      H. Verelst/John Cartier/Jas. Alexander/  
the 8th March 1769.              Thos. Rumbold/Charles Floyer.

## 31

## LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1769

*A broken set of proceedings sent.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

This Serves only to advise you that we embrace the opportunity of the present dispatch to transmit you a duplicate of our last address per Ship Salisbury under date the 3rd Ulto—Together with the broken Set of our proceedings and of letters sent and received from the commencement of the present year to the date hereof.

By the Shrewsbury the next and last of your Ships for dispatch this Season we propose to address you fully on the subject of your Affairs entrusted to our management till when we must beg leave to refer you to our proceedings and letters transmitted during the course of this season and to subscribe ourselves with the utmost respect.

Hon'ble Sirs  
Your Faithful &  
Most Obedient  
humble Servants

Fort William                      H. Verelst/John Cartier/James Alexander/  
the 4th March 1769.              Charles Floyer.

## LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1769

*Very satisfactory condition of investment—Colonel Campbell from Bombay put in charge of fortifications—a proposal for constructing docks—a gold currency to relieve want of specie—money sent to Madras—navy donations—trade with Morung—a larger number of cadets wanted—a reference concerning jurisdiction of Mayor's Court.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. The last Letter we did ourselves the honor to write you was dated the 2nd Ulto. & transmitted by the Talbot together with a Postscript of the 8th of that Month Duplicates of which accompany this.

2. We now dispatch to you our last Ship the Shrewsbury which compleats the whole of your Ships to be returned from Coast & Bay—And we have the pleasure to inform you there still remains in the Warehouse Goods to the amount of 75000 Rs. & that we purpose dispatching them in a Ship to you September next.

3. It affords us very peculiar satisfaction that we have been able to comply with your desire of having all your Ships returned the same Season and we beg leave to lay before you a statement of the cargoes sent on each Ship that you may see in one distinct, & Collective view the amount of the Investment We have provided on the

Valentine . . . . .	8,52,600	0	0
Verelst . . . . .	9,19,400	0	0
Kent . . . . .	9,00,500	0	0
Queen . . . . .	8,31,400	0	0
Talbot . . . . .	8,95,100	0	0
Thames . . . . .	4,52,500	0	0
Salisbury . . . . .	7,91,200	0	0
Dutton . . . . .	34,081	4	0
Shrewsbury . . . . .	9,54,900	0	0

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Currt. Rupees 66,31,681 4 0

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4 So ample a Provision we flatter ourselves will answer your utmost Expectations and we feel a very sensible pleasure when we reflect on the advantages you will derive therefrom and the conviction it will be to you Gentlemen that the utmost attention has been paid to realize to you as much of your Cotton as possible

5 Our Consignments of Salt Petre to the Coast & Bombay have been sent in the proportions & on the Ships as follows

To Madrass on the Ship	Dutton	Mds 6000
Ditto	Carnatic	" 5000
To Bombay on the Ship	Ankerwyke	" 6000
Do	Crescent	" 6000
Do	Admiral Watson	" 4000
Do	Vansittart	" 4000
Do	Verelst	" 4000

6 Few Circumstances have occurred since our Last arrives for you to be acquainted with—All that have happened we shall now do ourselves the honor to recite

7 Conformably to your appointment Lieut Colonel Campbell hath taken Charge of your Fortifications—and in Consultation the 18th Instant laid before us a state of the Works  
 Consn 18 Mar with his Sentiments on their present Situation of defence the progress that may be hereafter made in their Construction, & such improvements as will tend towards placing the Fortress in a proper state of Defence in the shortest time possible, & at the most reasonable Expence

8 We have accordingly directed Colonel Campbell to carry on the Works in the manner he prescribed—and from the Character you & the President & Council of Bombay have given us of this Gentleman we hope to see your Fortifications very soon in great forwardness—Every Assistance in our power will be most readily afforded & every means taken to accomplish this important purpose which we have already informed you & now beg leave to repeat is an Object on which our attention is principally turned

9 We desired Colonel Campbell to give us his Opinion in the piling intended to prevent the Encroachment of the River on the Works—And it was with Surprize & Concern we learned from him it was Necessary to put a stop to this Work as he represented to us it would by no means Answer this purpose—He very judiciously remarked to us that the most effectual means of overcoming the Danger of a Rapid Current is to divert its course and not absolutely endeavouring to oppose its effects on those places on which it acts with the greatest impetuosity—And gave it as his Opinion that it



was possible to accomplish this Maxim—by Piling in a different manner on which Subject He acquainted us he would Communicate His Sentiments whenever we pleased to require them—We have accordingly desired Colonel Campbell to explain to us the method he would purpose for piling the Banks of the River & to inform if he Judges such a work to be absolutely necessary.

10. The Publick Utility of Docks in a Settlement like this you Gentlemen seem to be very sensible of The Want of them is but too frequently experienced—And the essential Consequences such a work would be of to you in particular in case of a future War must also be apparent.

11. In your Letter of the 13th of December 1765, You have been pleased to recommend making Docks &ca. if they could be undertaken by private persons.

12. We beg leave to inform You that Colonel Campbell & Captain Watson have laid before us proposals for Constructing proper Docks—Ships & Dock Yards for building & Careening at all Seasons times & tides Ships of every Kind from the rate of 74 Gun-Ship Downwards—which they intend to execute at their own Risk & Expence—and should you Gentlemen be hereafter desirous of taking these Docks Ships & Dock Yards into your possession—they will bind & Oblige themselves their Heirs & Executors to deliver up to you after the work is compleated the Sole Right & Title thereof upon being paid the amount of such Sum or Sums as they may have laid out upon their Construction and such a Gratuity as the Governor & Council here shall think they deserve for having prosecuted & carried into Execution an undertaking so beneficial to the Publick.

13. Such a proposal & from persons whose Abilities & Character promise the fairest for performing this Work in the Compleatest manner & upon the most advantageous & reasonable terms you may imagine Gentlemen we readily listened to—It is a Scheme we highly applaud & approve and therefore assured them that as soon as the fortifications were in such forwardness as not to require every Artificer & Cooley that could be got we would exert our utmost influence to promote their design And readily offered them every assistance in our power to enable them to carry into Execution so laudable an undertaking, & in Justice to the merit of that proposal the performance of this Work should be reserved solely to them.

14. Upon this assurance they requested a piece of Ground situated just without the Line of defence of our Fortifications—

which we consented to grant them, on a conviction that they must be of opinion an Enemy could derive no advantage from the possession of it—And at the same time requested permission to begin immediately on this Work

15 An undertaking so important, in its Consequences, and of such General Utility we are earnestly desirous to promote and it was with great Concern we foresaw an Obstacle to prevent the immediate Commencement of it The one which presented itself was the present state of your Fortifications—For until they can be reported by Colonel Campbell to be in a proper state of Defence—Our Duty & regard to your valuable Possessions in Bengal indisputably oblige us to withhold our Consent to any part of it being commenced

16 This Determination we acquainted Colonel Campbell & Captain Watson with—but on their representing to us that the piles & wood work were the first parts of the work to be performed—and that these should be prepared at Bakergunge which being so remote no artificers could be employed whereby the works of the Fortifications could be in the smallest degree affected or retarded we consented to their preparing the piles & wood immediately

17 We flatter ourselves Gentlemen you will Join in promoting so Publick Spirited an Undertaking and offer us your Assistance in any points wherein we may have occasion to request it in their behalf particularly in granting permission for any Articles to be sent in your Ships that may be wanted for this purpose

18 To relieve the Universal Distress the Settlement hath felt for want of Specie and to remedy so alarming an Evil has for some time past been the Subjects of our Deliberations

19 After having duly & maturely weighed this matter, & having concerted the principal Bannians, Bankers, Merchants & the Ministers of the Nizamut we came to the Resolution of recommending to the Nizamut, the Establishment of a new Gold Currency

20 Our Reasons for this Resolution & each particular regarding the Establishment stand so fully recorded on our Consultation of the 20th Instant that to recite them here would only be a needless repetition & we therefore beg leave to refer you to our Consultation of that Day

21 In justice to the Integrity of the Members of the Administration who established the late Gold Currency we here beg leave to Assure you we cannot Suppose they were induced to adopt the measure from any other motive than a full conviction that it would

be of advantage to the publick and was an Expedient to Stop the Progress of an Evil severely felt & loudly complained of or that they were biassed or Influenced in the smallest degree by any private advantages.

22. It is probable the Inexperience of these Gentlemen on such a Subject might lead them into some mistaken Notions, from whence their Arguments might, as you Observe appear weak—& which perhaps gave rise to a severe remark you acquaint us was made in a General Court of Proprietors—In the present Establishment however that we have recommended we hope we have fully Obviated even the Shadow of Censure or Reflection—by the equitable proportion we have observed between the value of the Gold & Silver which is nearly equal to what it bears [in?] all Countries of the World.

23. In Consequence of a Representation from the Select Committee that the Gentlemen at Madrass were in great distress for money to support the War—We ordered an Express Boat to be dispatched after the Thames that if she had not left the River she might be detained untill the supply of Treasure could be sent down to [her?] At the same time we issued immediate orders for the Ballance of Gold Mohurs then in our Treasury amotg. to Current Rupees Four Lacks Forty two Thousands nine hundred & forty Eight Six Annas to be ready with all possible Expedition—This Sum was sent down the River on one of your Sloops which arrived in time with the Thames to have it laden on Board her and she hath proceeded on her Voyage.

24. On a further Representation from the Select Committee—We have sent the Gentlemen another supply of two Lacks on the Experiment a Country Ship which is now on the point of Sailing to that Presidency & will probably be the last Conveyance that will offer—& which with the prior remittances & their own Revenues from the Calculation we have made we judge will be sufficient for the Disbursments of the War until the end of September.

25. Some very disagreeable altercations that have lately passed between the Chief of Cossimbuzar & Mr. Barwell the Resident at Bauleah wherein the former Gentleman had been treated with great disrespect by the Latter, were referred to us for our Determination—And upon an Examination into the Circumstances it appeared Mr. Barwell had acted so very unbecoming & disrespectful a part that for the Support of that Subordination so essentially necessary to be observed in every part of Government we were obliged to pass the severe censure on his Conduct which stands recorded on our Consultation of the 27th Instant.

26 The Contract for supplying your Army with Provision & Bullocks being nearly Expired Mr Hunter who held it last Year Solicited the Renewal of it & Mr Alexander Cobham also made application to us on the same Subject

27 From Mr Cobham's Letter we were informed he intended offering [of?] lower terms than those on which it was granted to Mr Hunter

28 Such a proposal would doubtless have had weight with us—But there was a Consideration that in our Opinion, was a stronger Argument for continuing the Contract to Mr Hunter than giving it to Mr Cobham because he had made offers of Lower terms

29 The Country Government promised to provide a Number of Bullocks which number we in our Contract have engaged constantly to maintain But the Persons employed in this business on the part of the Government provided such bad Cattle that they were rejected & dismissed the Service by the Commander in Chief—By which means we became guilty of Breach of Contract Of this—Mr Hunter might have availed himself—the penalty you in that case would have been obliged to pay would most probably have been a considerable larger Sum than what you would have saved in the difference of the present terms & those Mr Cobham might Offer

30 This consideration therefore chiefly determined us to continue the Contract to Mr Hunter in preference to giving it Mr Cobham and a still further reason was the Commander in Chief had given it as his opinion it could not be taken on low terms & strict Justice be done to you at the same time And informed us that Mr Hunter had carried it on to his satisfaction

31 Proposals have been lately made for furnishing the stores used in the Buxey Connah by Contract which we have accepted none have been yet offered for any other Office

32 The Agents to the Navy Donation addressed us on the Subject of the Donation & requested a payment of the whole or some part of it—The large and unexpected demands from the Coast for the Support of the War & our other Expences have reduced your Treasury so low that it was impossible for us to comply with their request—We have however given them Assurances that if we have no such demands upon us this Year which we flatter ourselves we shall not that we hope to be able to discharge it in the course of the Year

33 The Restitution accounts you have desired to be transmitted to you are so voluminous and we are in such want of

Servants to transact the business of the Presidency—It has not been in our Power to prepare them by the Ships of this Season—And we are now under the necessity of employing Monthly Assistants to finish them & hope to send them by the first Ship of next Season.

34. We had the pleasure to acquaint you in our Letter of the 2nd Ulto. that we had provided a sufficient number of timbers from the Morung Country to supply all your Officers—In Consequence of which we have taken off the Restriction prohibiting any private persons to trade thither & again laid it open.

35. The Buxey in Consultation the 29th Inst. laid before us an Account of Dead Stock which he conceived would not be required for the Companys use. The amount as they stand in your Books is 28762-8-[9?] He also acquainted us there were many other Articles which he deemed equally useless In Consequence of this report we have directed him to sell them at Outcry.

36. Mr. Becher the late Collector General in a Letter laid before us this day hath very minutely described the present state of that department—which for your Information we have ordered in that Days proceeding's—But as it was presented to us just at the Eve of the dispatch we have not had time to take any Resolutions upon it and must defer them until we can more maturely consider it.

37. We have the honor to send you by this Ship Duplicates of the medium price of Rice mentioned in the 20th Paragraph of our Letter dated the 2nd Ulto.—together with an Additional Account of the Prices of that Article for eight Years—in the district of Poorneah & Dinagapore which is the most correct [one] we can obtain & these we hope will fully Answer every purpose for which you require them.

38. As your Military Establishment is so considerably encreased it will consequently require a larger Number of Cadets to be sent out to supply the vacancies occasioned by Casualties—We therefore request you will send out such a Number as you may think necessary to keep your Establishment Compleat.

39. We are sorry it has not been in our power to transmit you the Books of the Military Pay Master Generals Office. Mr. Russell who has lately been appointed Military Pay Master General informed us in a Letter entered in Consultation the 23rd March the Commissary's Books commencing the 1st of May 1765 are still incompleat That the Errors complained of by Mr. Kelsall in Consultation the 30th March 1766 have proved a source of endless Labour, and every attempt has only been a fresh Proof than an adjustment is altogether impracticable—The Books for that Year

must therefore be begun anew and Mr Harwood the late Sub Accomptant who has undertaken them hath assured Mr Russell they shall be finished in time for the September Dispatches in which case he hopes the Books for the succeeding Year to the 30th of April last will likewise accompany them

40 In our Letter of the 13th September we informed you that in Consequence of a Representation from the President of the misconduct of Mr George Bright who contrary to his express orders and after having positively denied him his Consent had married one Mrs Ivie who was deemed a very improper Match—We had suspended him the Service for the Contempt he had Shewn to the Governor's Authority and the disrespect he had treated him with At the particular request of the President who has since represented to us that the end he proposed in having this Censure passed on him which was for the sake of Example is answered that he seems very sensible of his Error & that his behaviour has been remarkably modest & Submissive—We beg leave to point out these Circumstances to you, in hopes they will entitle him to some Mark of your Lenity

41 We informed you Honble Sirs in our Letter Pr Ship Valentine that we had dismissed from your Service Mr Edward Fenwicke & ordered him to Europe by one of the Ships of this Season—we have since been induced from a Representation of that unhappy Young Man's Situation & Circumstances to permit his remaining in the Country till your pleasure regarding him is made known to us & we have the more readily come into this Deviation from our former Resolution from the appearance of contrition he seems impressed with for his late imprudent & bad Behaviour

42 Two Seats in Council being vacant by the Resignation of Messrs Sykes & Charlton—We took your Orders into consideration relative to the Line of Succession—On this Occasion the President thought it necessary to represent to us that as the Letter from the Select Committee by the Britannia Lord Clive & his own Correspondence with you Gentlemen may not induce but evince you of the necessity of determining this matter—And as Lord Clive intended giving the Company his Opinion on this important Subject which he imagines he has only been prevented from doing by Sickness and which may probably have prevented any Resolutions being taken at home He [would?] recommend a determination on so important a Point to be deferred until the arrival of the first Ships of the Season

43 For the reasons which the President urged for suspending our resolutions on this important Subject and as by the dispatch of all your Ships the business can be neither urgent nor weighty

we may expect in a few Weeks—We have deferred coming to a final determination on filling up the vacancies in Council untill we are honor'd with Your Commands.

44. Mr. Roger Barwell having for some time past laboured under a Disorder which the Physicians having given it as their Opinion nothing but a cold Climate can remove him from—hath desired our permission to resign the Service in order to return to England for the Re-establishment of his health—which we have accordingly granted him—& he takes his passage on this Ship.

45. By Letter which the President hath just received from Mr. John Sumner an Assistant at Dacca requesting his permission to return to the Presidency in order to take his passage to Europe for the recovering of a Long & Dangerous Illness which he hath for some time struggled with he seems apprehensive that he shall not arrive from Dacca before the Shrewsbury's Dispatch, & therefore requests permission to proceed on the first foreign Ship that may Sail from hence—which request we also complied with.

46. A case lately before us as a Court of Appeals makes us Sollicitous to have your Opinion whether the Mayors Court have a power of granting to a native the Administration of the Effects of a deceased native and whether an Appeal lies from a judgment of the Mayors Court in their Ecclesiastical Capacity. In this last particular the Royal Charter indeed leaves us in some doubt for it would appear that in all cases of Wills & Administrations the Mayors Court have a distinct & Separate Authority & that Civil Suits and Actions only are cognizable in the Court of Appeals But as to the other point We differ in Opinion from the Mayors Court—We confess ourselves clear that they cannot legally empower a native to administer to the effects of another—because by the Restriction in the Charter disqualifying the natives from suing each other without mutual Consent he could not be [amenable?] by the Kindred to the Mayors Court in case of Maladministration, besides it would be contrary to the very spirit of the Charter which leaves the Natives to their own Laws & Customs in all matters that arise amongst themselves—Such are our Sentiments, and we cannot help regretting the doubts We have, how far We can as a Court of Appeal interfere with Mayors Court Decrees in Affairs of Will &c. as We think it would be a Relief to the Inhabitants if we had just Authority.

47. Mr. Bolts having preferred an Appeal to the King and Council from our Proceedings in removing him from the Mayors Court—we have thought proper to frame an Answer which makes a Number in the Packet in Case you should think necessary to make use of it.

48. We have licensed in this Ship Sundry Diamonds amounting to C Rs. 59590...8...6 Agreeable to the Manifest enclosed.

No.					
5	3 Bulses	Three Bulses of Diamonds from Samuel Middleton Esqre. on Acct. of Sir Robert Barker & Colonel	9924	2	2
6		Hugh Grant Consigned to William Brightwell Sumner & Samuel	9584	3	3
7		Waller Esqre. in London . . . .	9803	11	0
			<hr/>		
			29312	1	6
24	CV. } 2 Bulses.	Two Bulses of Diamonds Mark'd & Number'd as Pr. Margin Ship'd here by the Hon'ble Harry Verelst Esqre. Consigned to the Right Hon'ble Robert Lord Clive in	14977	15	0
25		London Value . . . . .	15300	8	0
No.					
TM. 3		One Bulse of Diamonds from Mr. Thomas Motte Consigned to Mr. Charles Bathurst in London Value C. Rs. . . . . .	2315	0	0

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your most &ca.

H. Verelst/John Cartier/Jas. Alexander/  
Claude Russell/Thos. Rumbold/  
Charles Floyer.

Fort William  
the 28th March 1769.

*Postscript:*—We have granted by this Ship the Following Setts of Bills of Exchange at Ninety Days Sight & 2 Shillings the Current Rupee Vizt. A Sett of Bills dated 27th March 1769 payable to the Governor of the Foundling Hospital 1500 C. R. Value received of Huzzorremaul.

Ditto . . . . . Ditto payable to the Governors of the Magdalen for C.Rs. 1500 Value received of Huzzorremaul Sett of Bills £s. 350. C.Rs. 3500 at 2/- & 90 Days to Henry Wedderburn value received of him.

Sett of Bills £stg. 1000 C.Rs. 10000 at 2/- & 90 Days to James Russell value received of Archibald Campbell

We have also granted the following Certificates Vizt.



One Sett to the Rt. Hon'ble Robert Lord		
Clive for . . . . .	C.Rs.	1,00,171 7 0
One Sett . . . . . Do. . . . .	Ditto	64,657 12 6
One Sett to Captain Charles Haggis of the		
Thames . . . . .		27,650 0 0
		<hr/>
		1,92,479 3 6
		<hr/>

We have laden on this Ship Sundry Goods & Merchandize amounting to C.Rs. 9,54,900-0-0 agreeably to the Invoice enclosed.

And for the Use of your Island of St. Helena we have laden Stores to the amount of C.Rs. 1,639-12-3.

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs &ca.  
H. Verelst/John Cartier/Jas. Alexander/  
Claude Russell/Thos. Rumbold/  
Charles Floyer.

Fort William  
the 4th April 1769.

## 33

## LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1769

*No serious external danger but internal condition a matter of great concern—Verelst's analysis of the ills—wants to establish a fund for exigencies—a gold coinage upon a new plan and standard.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, &c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen,

1. I had the honor to address you by the Ship Valentine Captain Purvis, and transmitted you then so full and ample a detail of the situation of the Country in General and your on possessions and Commerce in particular, as leaves me little to add by this opportunity.

2. Though the same ill State of health I before complained of has by the weight and fatigue of business been considerably augmented and though my remaining in India another Season must be attended with manifest risk to my constitution if not life, yet in the distressed situation of the Country and Finances, in the alarming circumstances of your Affairs on the Coast, and above all

in the Precarious and critical State of the succession to the Council I thought I could not, either in justice to you my successor or myself quit the reins of Govern't until time had given matters a more settled aspect in the two first instances and yr orders of the Season determined the Latter

3 There has no material alteration taken place in the Kings Affairs or in those of the other Powers of Indostan since the date of my last letter his Majesty is still at Allahabad and has shewn some disposition towards a reconciliation with his Vizier and honored him with a Visit of compliment at his Capital Fyzabad

4 The transactions with the Vizier Shujah ul Dowlah, his dispositions and behaviour on the deputation and the new ties of Friendship and alliance in which he has again bound himself to us are so amply set forth in the letters from the Gentlen of the Deputation to the Select Committee as to render any recapitulation or remarks of mine unnecessary—You Gentlemen will be best able to judge from thence how far my preconceived ideas communicated in the above Letter were just and well founded and what room and grounds there were for that suspicion and apprehension, which formed so large a part of our debates and Correspondence

5 We have had some alarms of an intended Invasion of Indostan by the Shah Abdally at the invitation of the Rajpoot Chiefs in order to revenge themselves on the Jhats for the unwarrantable attack on their Country last year under Jewahar Singh—later advices however assure us that he has been obliged to march back in order to reduce one of his Principal Chiefs who has revolted—That the risk he runs of having his Candahar Dominions attacked by Kerime Cawn<sup>1</sup> in his absence will probably make him cautious how he ventures too far from his own Frontiers

6 Yet though we have little reason for fears from abroad the internal state of our Provinces is matter of great concern and unless provided for by speedy and effectual measures they must moulder into ruin of themselves without the intervention of any Enemy—A little attention to the nature of the riches of Bengal and a comparison of the various sources of wealth or distress in the Former and Present Systems of Government will evince this beyond dispute though our Provinces afford us Gold Silver and Precious Stones yet the vast variety and abundance of the produce of the Lands and the Excellency of the Manufactures of the Inhabitants leave them no great occasion for imported commodities and at the same time invite foreign Merchants to purchase and export these goods and Manufactures from their superior cheapness and quality—I have observed, that the Natives had occasion for few foreign Commodities

either for convenience or Luxury and consequently a very small portion of their trade could be carried on by barter and the rest only by giving specie for goods—The extent also of the Traffice (*sic*) was prodigious—And besides the large investments of the different European Nations—the Bengal Raw Silk, Cloths, &c. to a vast amount were dispersed to the West and North Inland as far as Guzerat, Lahore, and even Ispahan—In proportion therefore to this defusion of Commerce—the quantity of specie in the Country necessarily increased the Farmers and Workmen were enabled to answer the demands with ease by the readiness of their sales & every extension of industry at home or trade abroad was a new opening to and advance of the general opulence—From this view then of the state of trade heretofore in the Provinces; and by setting the sum of the charges of merchandize and other necessary disbursements, against the sum of the Imports it will clearly follow that the whole amount of the Trade of the Provinces, was a clear gain to them, by an exchange of their produce for bullion—How far the Imports and expences balance each other, you have ample means of conviction in your own hands by a comparison of your Export Goods and Bullion with your Factory disbursements and homeward investment, till the Revolution of 1757: and if this should prove so in your extensive Commerce the circumstance will hold much more strongly in the Inland Trade of the Mogul and Guzerat Merchants who had the Duties of the Government to Pay and whose goods were transported chiefly by an expensive land Carriage—If these facts are admitted we can be no longer at a loss for the source of the prodigious Ancient riches of Bengal, as there flowed in every year an increase of specie equal to the Amount of the export trade of the Country and of the immensity of this we must conceive the most consequential idea when we find from the Pichoutrah (or Custom Office Books) at Moorshedabad that so late as Alverdi Cawn's Time and after so many internal Revolutions and Foreign ravages nearly the value of 70 Laaks in Raw Silk were entered there: exclusive of the European Investment which were not registered in them, as being either duty free or paying at Hooghley.

7. Here their (*sic*) we trace the grand and true fountain of the wealth of these Subahs, and the splendour of their Nazims; but besides this there were also several collateral streams which served in their turns to feed and swell the principal one, the advantages accruing from so beneficial a Commerce, enabled, as we have seen the Farmer and Manufacturer to discharge their stipulated Revenue to their Prince and these Revenues again, did not centre nor were sunk in his Coffers but returned through various Channels into the general circulation—Large Jaghires were granted to men of noble Families or particular favorites whole Districts were allotted to the

other branches of the Royal Family, at a rate vastly below their real value large armies of Horse &c were maintained either for show or security, at an enormous expence and even the Luxury & Pomp ever customary among the potentates of the East, contributed in some degree by encouraging a spirit of Expence and dissipating large Sums among the People in general which if they had remained shut up in the Treasury would have been a loss to the Country, and of no present advantage to the Proprietor—By these means therefore and the advantage of trade already mentioned an extensive and brisk circulation of specie was kept up every where, The Farmer was easy the Artizan encouraged, the Merchant enriched and the Prince satisfied—It would not be easy neither is it of any importance in the present enquiry to ascertain the precise era in which all these began to decline, but so far is certain that the decline was neither sensibly felt by the Country nor perceptible to us, till after the Revolution in Favor of Meer Jaffier—This threw so considerable Sums into the hands of the Company, as to render their importing Bullion for their investment unnecessary, and the large fortunes obtained in consequence by Individuals who were precluded the course of remittance through your Cash, filled the Treasuries of Foreign Nations, in exchange for Bills on their respective Companies—So that ever since the Country came into our possession they have enabled to rival us in Trade in our own Territories with our own Money The former Channels then of opulence to the Country beginning to stagnate it was left to be maintained by the old stock of specie, which, for a series of Years past had flowed into it—and thus by a variety of unforeseen events sunk more rapidly than in the ordinary course of things it might otherwise have done—The elevation of Meer Jaffier was attended with ruin to many of the principal families dependent on the late reigning one and much confusion and interruption to the trade of the Country Merchant, by advancing our interest therein in preference to his—Then when a second revolution took place in favor of Cassim Ali Cawn, he soon found the fatal tendency of His Superior influence, his endeavors to put the other Merchants on something of an equal footing with us, produced continual disputes between his Officers and our Agents and the precariousness of his situation, with an ambition of rendering himself speedily independent by a rapid increase of Military strength and finances made him sacrifice the most opulent inhabitants to his avarice and drain the Country by every severity of extortion to secure a fund for his future designs or exigencies—From the best Authorities I have been able to obtain here, and from the fairest Calculates, it seems probable that Cassim Ali was the cause of a loss of near five Crore of Rupees in Jewels and Specie to the Country which he either expended in drawing

Sujah Dowlah to his Assistance or which was seized by his New Ally, or carried of and secreted by him for his future provision if we consider that the Treasures of the Nizamut, were so low on his accession that Meer Jaffier had been necessitated to cede large districts to us in lieu of sums due whilst his own Troops were almost mutinous for want of their pay and arrears; and if to this We add that Cossim remained in quiet possession of his new dignity no longer than three years We must at once see that this immense sum was levied immediately from the Provinces in this Short interval over and above his heavy Current expences and be sensible how large a proportion this vast drawback must have born to the Country's Capital of Specie—The Revolution of Meer Jaffier and the grant of the Dewannee to the Company, by his Majesty rendered the fresh imports of Bullion either by Us or Foreign Companies less necessary to the maintenance and preservation of Trade; from the same original cause which had existed in 1757; and the increasing restrictions and disadvantages with which the free Trade of the Native, Guzerattee, or Mogul was daily fettered and loaded; succeeding that confussion which daily revolutions had occasioned, either, produced certain Bankruptcies or deterred the more circumspect from embarking at all in Commerce to a certain Loss—here then the channel of Trade, which had before poured the principal Riches to Bengal, began to turn to a drain upon it; the whole centred in the Europeans, whose Commerce at all times was least to the advantage of the Country: because their Imports were largest in proportion and their duties less: and who now added to these a new loss that of making larger exports than ever, at the Country's sole expence—Of the destructive extent of this loss the following rough comparison of the Imports of Bullion by the European Nations, and their exports of commodities and bullion for three years past, will awaken the most alarming idea.

Bullion imported by the Dutch at the highest Estimate			
Do.	Do.	by the French during that term	
		@ 10 Laaks P An:	30,00,000
Do.	Do.	by the English	00,00,000
Do.	Do.	by the Guzeratties, Moguls &c.	00,00,000
Do.	Do.	in Gold from Bussorah on Private	
		A/c. at 6 Laaks P Annum	18,00,000
Do.	by the Danish Company	at $2\frac{1}{2}$ Laaks	
		P Annum	7,50,000
Total			55,50,000

*Exports for three years*

English Company in 1766 and 1767 at the lowest Calculate . . . . .	107,00,000
Do. Do. in 1768 . . . . .	70,00,000
Do. Private property at the rate of £Stg. 5000 Per Ship and 5 Ships P ann. for 3 years at a Medium . . . . .	6,00,000
Dutch Company 1766 and 1767 3 Ships Public and Private, amount at the lowest 10 Laaks P Ship Do. 1768 Four Ships . . . . .	60,00,000 40,00,000
French 1766 & 1767 five Ships at 10 Laaks . . . . .	50,00,000
Do. 1768 four Ships at Do. . . . .	40,00,000
Danes 1766 and 1767 1 Ship @ Eight each year . . . . .	16,00,000
Danes 1768 2 Ships @ Do. . . . .	16,00,000
Specie exported out of the Provinces for the Payment of the King's Tribute, and a Brigade at Allahabad P Annum for 3 years 50,00,000 . . . . .	150,00,000
Private exports to China at 2 Laaks P Annum . . . . .	6,00,000
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>5,44,00,000</b>
From which subtract the imported Bullion agreeable to the Estimate just made . . . . .	55,50,000
<b>And there remains a balance agst. the Country of</b>	<b>4,88,50,000</b>

8. I do not here include the Export trade in general of the Private European Merchants notwithstanding it is very considerable; because though they bring in little Bullion yet as they import commodities equal to what they carry out, the Country is neither much hurt or much benefitted by this Traffic; till the Merchant comes to realize his gains in order for his return to his Native Country and then the amount of them becomes an addition to the Balance against the Country, by being paid into some European Company's Cash, for Bills and by this means rendering it unnecessary for them to import Bullion at a Risque for the Provision of their Investment—Neither do I include in this Account the large Sums sent by us to China Madras and the other Presidencies, because these reduced the Company's Treasury rather than the Country and because they were equally lost to the Country if they remained in the Treasury, and did not enter into our Disbursements or Investment; as if they were exported. The King's Tribute on the Contrary and the Expense at Allahabad is really so much loss to the calculation because as they form a large Proportion of our necessary Disbursements, so being now made out of the Provinces there must be a similar deduction from their general

Specie. It will hardly be asserted that any Country however opulent could long maintain itself much less flourish when it received no material supplies and when a balance of above one third of its whole yearly value was yearly incurred—But besides this there are other concomitant circumstances which have contributed to diminish the Riches of the Country and must if not remedied soon exhaust them I have observed that one great advantage the Country formerly reaped, was the diffusion of its Revenues by large grants to different Families, and by the Expensive luxury of its Governors, but now the whole amount of the Lands is swallowed up in one Gulph your Treasury, nor does any part of it return into the circulation, except the Sum issued for our Investment & necessary Expences; So that there ensues an annual Loss to the Currency equal to the difference between the aggregate of the investment and disbursements, and the Total of the Revenues—This if continued must in time draw in all the Specie; and the only remedy for this evil is either to encrease your Investment till with your disbursements it equals your Revenues or to import a quantity of Specie equal to the difference. The first of these if practicable, would leave you without a fund for Emergencies by advancing the Revenues to the Aurungs as fast as they were collected; the second I am afraid is rather to be wished by us than to be attempted by you.

9. I have thus Gentlemen endeavored to lay open to you the true sources of the ancient opulence of Bengal and its present distress. Perhaps you have never been led to consider them in this light; but I am persuaded an impartial Examination will evince the justness of my arguments should they stand the test they cannot fail of being particularly useful at this juncture; as they will enable you to supply a suitable support where the weakness is pointed out and to answer the objections and clamours of your Enemies—From hence also you will see how much the Advantages of your late acquisitions have been exaggerated beyond all bounds; and how far from impossible it was for the Hon'ble East India Co. to be distressed though newly become Masters of the revenues of a Country which stood rated at above Three Millions Per Annum—A superficial or weak observer may estimate a Country like an Estate from its Rent Roll but the man of Experience and reflection will Easily see that its Annual Income must depend on the proportion of its produce which can be realized in Specie; and that the Intrinsic value of it must fluctuate, as the Quantity of Specie which is the measure of it multiplies or decreases in the Kingdom where it is placed in this point of view and after what has been already said, I need add no arguments to demonstrate the reality of our present difficulties, and the certain prospect of our future distress—I have already, hinted my apprehensions of your inability to increase your investments of

Bullion, which was even now looked upon with a jealous eye by the Nation, but it is still in your power to oblige others to import it or leave you the Masters of the Bengal Trade—Large sums belonging to your former Servants are still lying unremitted, and these must yearly increase by the fruits of the successful Industry of your Present ones—If you open your cash upon equitable terms for remittances for all sums tendered both National and private considerations will draw all these into your channel and cut off the grand resource and advantage of Foreign Nations—the rivaling you in your Trade with your own Money—I say equitable terms, because it can never be expected that any one will remit the produce of so many years labors at so great a discount as  $\frac{1}{9}$ th part of his Principal below the par of exchange @  $\frac{2}{3}$ d P Current Rupee, and on the contrary had you even raised the rate to  $\frac{2}{4}$  P Current Rupee instead of sinking it to 2s/ I dare aver the Company as well as Nation, would have been considerable gainers by the advance we should have then have been able to send you home by the next Season an investment far superior to that of the present year, whereas policy or rather necessity must now oblige us to curtail it to 40 to 45 Laaks—I need draw no comparison between the Loss of  $\frac{1}{9}$ th on the remittance and the gain to you of 175 P Cent on such an increase of import, neither need I suggest the difference it occasions to the Nation, Company, & Country to throw so large a sum into the hands of Natural Enemies, and lukewarm Allys by a mistaken & injurious economy, Do not however Gentlemen conceive that your Servants are so anxious for remittances through your Cash from any private or interested views—The remittances of Foreign Nations must always be more advantageous to them because they will always keep their terms a little higher than yours as an inducement and this must continue until yours are on such a footing as to render a further advance of their rates equal or Superior to the insurance and Interest on Exports of Bullion—Then we may hope for some supplies from them to this declining Country, and till then, our streights and poverty must increase

10 We have sent you an Investment this year the produce of which will, we hope, answer every exigency, but we propose to lower the Investment for the next Season, to 40 or 45 Laaks including the 7 Laaks and upwards now in your Warehouses and to appropriate the surplus for the Establishment of a Fund for our own exigencies, and those of the other Presidencies—The necessity of this I need not enlarge upon, the arguments in a letter to us from the Gentlemen at Madras dated March 1st 1769 and the sentiments of the Committee in the last Paragraph of their Answer thereto, will I apprehend be sufficient the sum ought to Amount to a Crore of Rupees for this Presidency and Fifty Laaks for the supply of the Treasury at Fort St George, and I would recommend that after the above Fund is



secured the surplus of the Revenues, or a considerable part thereof should be employed on private security of the Natives, in loans for the cultivation of waste lands by which method your possessions would in time become of real value to you: the Country would be rendered more populous; the Trade increased by an addition of the manufactures, and the means of realizing your property be more certain and less detrimental to the Country or the Native Trades.

11. As a present relief to the necessities of the Settlement, at their universal request and to supply as far as possible, the deficiency of Silver for the purpose of Trade and revenue we have formed it expedient to re-establish the Gold Coinage upon a new plan and standard as the only remedy left us, and I doubt not that when you seriously weigh the arguments set forth in the Resolutions of the Board you will approve the measure and acquit us from all imputation of precipitancy or contradiction in our Councils.

12. I did intend to have entered minutely on the state of your Revenues, both as to the mode of collection and the improvements of which it is capable; but as I am now proceeding towards the City and shall have an opportunity of seeing every thing adjusted for the Punah, I have thought it better to defer it till the first Ship of next Season when I hope to deliver it in person.

13. In yr. appointment of Mr. Robert Maddison as a Factor in your Service you have not given your orders either in regard to the rank he is to stand in or the time he is to continue in that Station. If your intentions were that he should serve three years instead of five the want of your direction may occasion a supercession by a number of others—Permit me to request you will determine this point and at the same time I recommend him as a person qualified to answer your expectations in any appointment you may think proper to make for him.

14. Since I began this Letter I have received intelligence of the retreat of the Shah Abdallee.

I have the honor to subscribe myself most respectfully Gentlemen,

Fort William,  
5th April 1769.

Yr. Faithful and Devoted  
Servant  
H. Verelst

## LETTER DATED 6 APRIL 1769

*Abandonment of a plan for rectification of the western frontier—Shuja ud Daulah ambitious but not unfriendly—reasons for the continuation of the 3rd brigade at Allahabad—re supplies to the hard pressed Madras Presidency—negotiations with Janoji suspended*

**T**O the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 We embrace the opportunity of the Shrewsbury's Dispatch which is your last Ship for Europe of this Season to inform you of such occurrences as were not noticed in our two last addresses under dates the 3rd February and 4th Ultimo and also of such material circumstances as have happened since the Talbot Dispatch

2 When the Deputies were appointed to proceed to Allahabad we took into consideration the great drains of Silver Annually made from these Provinces for the payments of your Troops on that Station, which with many other demands, had nearly exhausted the wealth of this Country—We considered also that his Majesty had frequently represented to the President through Muneer ul Dowlah, the Naib Vizier that Rajah Indraput had long usurped certain Districts in the Bundelcund Country which formerly composed a part of the Soubah of Allahabad, which he was extremely desirous of reuniting to the Royal Domains—The opportunity which then presented itself was deemed favorable for investigating this matter, and we accordingly recommended to the Deputies in our letter of Instructions to propose to his Majesty very cheerfully acquired—But it appearing from the subsequent researches of the deputation, that the Royal claim could not clearly be established we did not chuse to pursue a plan likely to lead us into distant enterprizes which the strictest justice did not authorize us to undertake but we should thereby run the hazard of involving your Affairs some future time and those difficulties we have ever made it our study to avoid—Colonel Smith has acquainted us with the result of his own enquiries into the matter but deeming that also insufficient we have suspended all thoughts of an expedition in that quarter

3 We have not a doubt but his Majesty will be very solicitous for the recovery of the usurped districts, and will leave no measures

unattempted to effect an object so very flattering to his hopes.—His visit to the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah at the very time that he appeared most earnest intent on this project, gave us cause to suspect that instead of mere compliment it tended principally to the concerting of a plan of operations for some future attempt against the Bundelcund Country—We apprehended that the Vizier when he found us determined not to grant our Assistance to his Royal Master would not fail to urge him on the enterprize by a tender of his forces and Assistance or might perhaps endeavor to obtain his Majesty's Sunnuds for such conquests as he himself might make in that Country—Certain it was, that the King had no Force to enable him to undertake such an Enterprize himself and therefore he could not pretend to say how far his pride or necessity might lead him into errors—When we considered the open and avowed enmity which had so long subsisted between the King and the Vizier, we could not think he would be so regardless of his own personal safety, as to arm a man of Sujah ul Dowlah's restless disposition and unbounded ambition, with so great a Power over the Royal House, as an extension of Territory must necessarily give him But still we thought it necessary to guard against such evils though we did not really apprehend them and accordingly directed Colonel Smith to assure His Majesty in either of the beforementioned cases that we should immediately withdraw all your troops within the Provinces—And if the latter was likely to take place the Colonel was to acquaint Sujah ul Dowlah that on the March of any part of his Forces into the Bundelcund Country We should regard him as a violator of the General Tranquility and the invader of those Countries the throne pretends a claim to.

4. Colonel Smith thought it expedient to attend His Majesty on the visit to Fyzabad—He was present at the conferences held between the King and his Vizier which produced the strongest assurances of forgiveness and oblivion of past injuries on the one part and of loyalty and fidelity on the other.

5. In our letter of the 6th January last we fully acquainted you with a plan which then appeared to us practicable for effecting an exchange of the Royal Domains for the Countries of Gauzepore and Benares and in order to proceed on a matter of such delicacy and importance with all possible circumspection we communicated our sentiments to the Gentlemen of the deputation and desired them to give us every information they could procure for our guidance their opinion stands recorded upon the face of our proceedings and we readily concurred with them that whilst the troubles continued on the Coast it would be improper to attempt the execution of such a project.

6. Though we have reason to think the Nabobs Vizier has not regarded with the most strict and exact punctuality the performance of his engagement in the dismissal of those Troops which exceed the number he has stipulated to keep up; yet we do not find he has raised or added a man to his Army since the Treaty at Benares—So that we have not the least doubt what with casualties and natural deaths, but his Army will be reduced in a short space of time to the State which we wish to see it—The Vizier himself boldly asserts that he has performed everything he agreed to do and claims some merit on the occasion—To openly charge him with dissimulation when the detection is so difficult, would be imprudent and equally impolitic, particularly so at a time when he professes the warmest Friendship and attachment to us and no other part of his behaviour contradicts such assurances—Rest assured Hon'ble Sirs that though we may not rigidly demand the performance of articles as to a man; yet we shall watch the motions of this ambitious and volatile Prince so as to prevent him in future from being dangerous to your possessions being more inclined that he should place a confidence in us by a frankness of behaviour when it can be assumed without danger on our side than be deprived of it by a diffident and captious conduct.

7. The General Rumour which has for some time prevailed of the approach of Shah Abdallah towards the Kings Frontiers, has been one of the principal Motives which have compelled us to keep the 3rd Brigade at Allahabad both as a check to his operations and as a security to the Territorial possessions of his Majesty and our Ally the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah—Colonel Smith in his Advices of the 18th February informed us that the Shah had advanced a part of his Army near to Lahore and seemed determined to pursue his march to Delhi but by the Colonel's Letter to the Governor under date the 19th Ultó., which we have just received it is with the utmost pleasure we perceive that Shah Abdallah is preparing to retreat, and possibly towards his own dominions—A circumstance so very favorable to our resolution of embracing the first safe opportunity to recall the third Brigade within these provinces, that we now only await the confirmation of this intelligence, to carry into execution the positive orders you have sent us on this subject.

8. It is with the utmost confidence we can assure you Gentlemen that those orders should have instantly been obeyed, could we have done it consistent with the duty we owe you and of the solemn engagements entered into with your Allies—To conciliate the minds of His Majesty and the Vizier, and to curb the ambitious projects and hostile intentions of the latter; were the first motives for continuing the Brigade at Allahabad after the receipt of your orders—To enforce if necessity required the performance of the Viziers late

Treaty with us; to be in readiness to support the Madras Administration if the security of your possessions on the Coast of Choromandel should require our making a diversion against the Mahratta Power, and to be a check on the ambitious projects of Shah Abdallah should he have determined to attack the Frontiers of your Allies were considerations which next urged us to detain your troops in the only Station where they could be of essential service to your Affairs.

9. Let us therefore flatter ourselves that the cause assigned for having hitherto suspended the execution of your orders will evince that the measures adopted proceeded from absolute necessity; and will acquit us of any imputation of disrespect or inattention to your Commands.

10. Sorry are we to inform you that your Affairs on the Coast wear a most unfavorable appearance, and are even reduced by the repeated successes of Hyder Ally to the lowest Ebb of distress, the Madras Persidency sensible of the many dangers that surround them have given us a most pathetic account of their situation, nor can we expect from the advices they have lately transmitted to us a very speedy issue to the long dangerous and expensive War, in which they are engaged until the Treasures of their Presidency and our own shall be nearly exhausted—To give them every possible support from hence, we have deemed it indispensably a duty we owe to you our hon'ble employers—For being servants of the same masters and being engaged in one general cause, we have regarded the welfare of your Settlement of Fort St. George equally with your own—The same principle still actuates us to devise every possible means which may conduce to their security and the welfare of your possessions.

11. Little did we imagine after the very large supplies which have been sent them this Season for the Support of the War, that their necessities would so increase as to compel us to curtail the Investment which the Council have given you the greatest reason to expect from this Presidency in the ensuing year, but such is the only means which can be devised for enabling us to grant them any effectual assistance.

12. We are advised that Hyder Ali has made proposals for a peace, but so dishonorable to the Nabob of Arcot and inglorious to your Arms that they were deemed inadmissible. The Gentlemen, however, desirous of accommodating matters if possible rather than continue so hazardous and expensive a war have replied to his hard conditions, and in their turn proposed to him such terms as they thought most conducive to your Interests—As they expected the result of their negotiation would be a continuance of the war, which would considerably increase their Military Expences, they wished to

be ascertained of the Resources which they might expect from hence in order that they might form a plan accordingly for their future operations, and at the same time informed us of the state of their Finances which they concluded would enable them to keep an Army in the Field for the term of Three Months—The Sums of Money we have, by several late conveyances remitted to Madras of which they had not been apprized at the time of their last dispatches together with Two Laaks of Rupees which were sent them on the Experiment a Country Ship, immediately on receipt of their last advices pretty nearly equalled the amount which they calculated for three months disbursements of their Army So that we have every reason to believe that the safe arrival of our several late remittances will enable them to keep the field against Hyder Ali until the month of September next independently of other resources which may arise from the sales of their expected imports, further loans from individuals residing under their Government, and a possibility of the Nabobs making further payments on account of the Revenues of the Carnatic

13 That they might be at some degree of certainty with regard to future resources from this quarter we have given it as our opinion that they may depend on being supplied with an annual Sum of Twentyfour Laaks of Rupees to commence from the Month of October next so long as it to send to the annual support of the war they are at present engaged in provided we are not compelled to enter into warlike preparations for the defence of these Provinces—And that should their future necessities encrease it may be possible by putting a stop to our investment to augment (*sic*) our supplies to Thirty Laaks—At the sametime that we thus candidly offered our opinion on the assistance they may expect from us in case of need we could not but inform them of the very distressed state to which this Country must inevitably be reduced by such considerable exportations of its Specie

14 You have before been informed that our principal object in bringing matters to a speedy conclusion with Janojee was to divert Madavarow from entering the Carnatic to the assistance of Hyder Ali—The advices lately transmitted to us from Col Smith have for the Present relieved us from apprehensions in that quarter since we find he has directed his operations towards the Province of Berah and seems seriously intent on crushing the power and influence of Janojee, We have therefore thought it highly impolitic at this juncture to continue our negotiations with this Chief as his fate must actually be decided long ere any of your Forces could reach him even should we have deemed it necessary as a check on Madavarow's growing power to march your Troops to his assistance



Peshwa Madhavrao I





If Mahadevarow should prove unsuccessful in his attempt and should resume his former intentions of entering the Carnatic, it will then be time enough to think seriously of a league with Janojee.

15. Mr. Rumbold having in his letter to us setting forth the present state of the Bahar Province, represented the necessity of making some deductions in the Revenues of that Province; We embraced the opportunity of Mahomed Reza Cawn's being on a visit at Calcutta to consult his opinion on a matter of such importance—It was a measure he thought absolutely necessary to be taken and his reasons in general coincided with those assigned by Mr. Rumbold.

16. The experience that Gentleman must have acquired during the time he has been vested with the charge of the Bahar Collections and the General Knowledge of Mahomed Reza Cawn in all matters relating to the Dewannee Revenues induced us to consent to such deductions being made from the general statement of that Province at the last Poonah as may be deemed irrecoverable or such as may prove an immediate relief and encouragement to the Ryots in the future cultivation of their Lands—We hope this Act of Lenity will impress them with a favorable opinion of the Government induce them to exert their industrious labours to promote its Welfare; and enable them to pay their rents more regularly in future.

17. Mr. Kelsall has represented to us that he labours under many inconveniencies in the provision of your investment, from not being vested with the charge of the Dacca Collections we have replied to his representation by acquainting him that as you had been pleased to approve the mode adopted by the Select Committee for conducting the business of the Dewannee Revenues we would not deviate therefrom without your orders; and that we should refer his Letter for your consideration and decision.

18. The Governor having informed us that Mahomed Reza Cawn was particularly desirous of his presence at the City, to enquire into sundry matters relative to the Collection of the Bengal Province; and of his readiness to comply with the request we approved of his intention; and he has accordingly proceeded on his Journey.

19. We have the honor to transmit you in this Packet copies of Mr. Sykes's Country Correspondence as resident at the Durbar from the 1st January 1768 to the time of his delivering over the Charge of that Station to Mr. Becher—Together with a duplicate of our last Letter; the broken set of our proceedings and other papers

since the last Dispatch as per enclosed List of the paquet; and to subscribe ourselves with the utmost respect.

Honble Sirs  
Your faithful and  
most Obedient  
humble Servants

Fort William  
6th April 1769.

John Cartier/Jas: Alexander/  
Charles Floyer.

## 35

## LETTER DATED 21 APRIL 1769

*News of the conclusion of peace with Haidar Ali—particulars to be sent by land.*

**T**O the Honorable the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs

Since the dispatch of the Shrewsbury, by which Ship we had the honor to address you, under date the 5th instant, we have received advice from your Presidency of Fort St. George, that they had concluded a Peace with Hyder Ally, on the 4th Instant, and that he, in consequence, was immediately to quit the Carnatick.

When we consider that the Thames will be the only Sea-Conveyance of this Season, by which the Gentlemen at Madrass can transmit to you such important advices; and the possibility of her losing her passage to England, or of meeting with other accidents which may attend her late Dispatch, we cannot hesitate to embrace the opportunity which now presents itself, in the dispatch of a French Ship from Chandernagore, of thus briefly informing you of a circumstance which so nearly [concern?] the welfare of your possessions on that Coast—To this we are the more strongly induced from the entire confidence we repose in the prudence and fidelity of Mr. John Sumner, one of your late Covenanted Servants on this Establishment; who, being compelled to return to his native Country for the recovery of his health, has obtained the Council's permission to embark on this Ship, it being the only remaining Sea-Conveyance of this Season.—But, as Foreign Ships must ever be distrustful

channels for the Conveyance of Publick and important advices, we hope to stand excused for not transmitting you the particulars, which we doubt not you will receive by Land, from your Presidency at Bombay or Fort St. George.

Mr. Sumner to whom this address is entrusted, has been directed to destroy it if he perceives any danger of it's falling into Foreign hands.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves, with the utmost respect.

Honorable Sirs  
Your faithful and most obedient  
Humble Servants

Fort William  
the 21st April 1769.      John Cartier/Jas. Alexander/Charles Floyer.

## 36

## LETTER DATED 25 SEPTEMBER 1769

*Madras in distress for want of grain—supplies to be sent—Bakhshi's protests—scarcity of silver—relaxation of restrictive orders re : bills of exchange necessary—the contract system at Cossimbazar for investment—measures adopted for the recovery of trade—Residents recalled from several places in the interior—Resident at the Durbar to watch every opportunity to get drafts for future supplies to Bombay—family of Sarafraz Khan to get relief—co-operation between Nawab's government and the Company—new gold coins received with general satisfaction—collections from Burdwan and Calcutta lands—Army and Navy donations—question of batta on sonnauts to be investigated—Smith's claims to the royal gift of 2 lakhs referred to the Directors—charge of speculation in cotton and using powers of administration refuted.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs

1. We had the honour to write you last under date the 28 March last by the Shrewsbury a Duplicate of which Letter is enclosed & since that time we have been favored with your Commands of the 11th November & 9 December 1768 & the 26 Jany. 1769 the Shrewsbury received her dispatches at Ingellee the 17th of April &

we hope before this Letter can come to your hands she will have safely arrived with you.

2 We have the pleasure to inform you of the Arrival of the following Ships

Lioness . . . . .	31 May
Lord Holland . . . . .	17 July
Britannia . . . . .	31 ditto
Royal Charlotte . . . . .	16 August

3 The Gentlemen at Bombay not being able to furnish a Cargo for the Ankerwyke sent her round to us We have taken her in the Service and She now proceeds with these advices in which we shall do ourselves the Honour to reply to your several Commands we have acknowledged to have received & acquaint you with such Occurrences as we deem most immediately necessary for your Information

4 The importance it is of to you to receive early advices & the approbation you have expressed of a former Resolution to send away a Ship from hence as early in the Season as possible determined us previously to the Arrival of the Ankerwyke from Bombay to dispatch the Lioness to you in this month and the necessary preparations for this purpose were accordingly made

5 At this time it was the Governours intention to have embarked for England on the Lioness But being desirous before he quitted the chair to wait for your Commands in your annual Letter in hope that you will therein fill up the Vacant Seats of Council or point out to us the manner in which you would have them filled as well as enable us to make the proper Arrangements He requested that we wou'd indulge him with detaining the Lioness untill the end of October & that you might not be deprived of an early ship to Substitute the Ankerwyke in her Stead

6 We have accordingly complied with his Request and as we have before informed you the Ankerwyke carries this Letter

7 We have the pleasure to inform you that our advices from Fort St George acquaint us the whole of your Ships destined for Coast & China are safely arrived that the Pigot, Hector, Plassey, Triton, Nottingham, Ashburnham, Earl of Lincoln and Havannah, had been dispatched that the Osterly and Norfolk were under dispatch for China and that the others were to follow soon after

8 The Gentlemen at Madras give us hopes they shall be able to provide a Cargo for one Ship but beyond that they cannot extend their Expectations,—so that we shall have Eight Ships including the

Ankerwyke to dispatch from hence.—And for this Number we flatter ourselves we shall have it in our power to provide Cargoes (though possibly of not equal value to those of last year) and to return them to you this Season.

9. The hopes given us from Fort St George even for one Ships Cargo are not positive since the Method they are to provide it is by raising money upon loan & as this is precarious the event is dubious.—As we are sensible of the Advantage you derive from the Coast Cargoes we should have acceded to a proposal the Gentlemen of Fort St George made to us of depriving you of a Bengall Cargo in order to furnish them with money to send you one from the Coast, —but our Treasury was so low it was not in our power to give them the least assistance.—We however permitted them to draw upon us to an unlimited amount and promised to send them money the latter end of August if it was in our power, but we are sorry to say it is not & we are at this present time as unable to afford them any assistance as we were when this promise was made.

10. The Hampshire which you have been pleased to order to be sent from Bombay to us imported here the 16th August with a Cargo of Cotton which we have ordered to be sold.

11. By the advices which she brought from that Presidency we learn that from the Number of Ships they returned last Season, their then remains exclusive of Salt Petre were scarcely sufficient for one Ships Charter party Tonnage and that they could not flatter themselves with being able to procure a Quantity of pepper for more than three besides, so that if we cannot furnish a Cargo for the Hampshire it will be very difficult if not impossible for them to provide one for her after the dispatch of the other three ships.

12. If the whole of the Ships you have been pleased to destine for our Presidency should arrive safe it will be impossible for us to avail ourselves of the Liberty you grant us to return the Hampshire directly from hence to England & in that Case we must send her round to Bombay but if any accident should happen to deprive us of the destined Number we can in that case relieve the Gentlemen at Bombay from the difficulty her return will involve them in and dispatch her immediately from hence, which We shall not fail to do & which we have informed them are our intentions.

13. In the 5, 6, & 7 Paragraph of the Letter we had the honour to write to you under date the 2d of February last we informed you that we had resolved to make the Experiment of building Sloops here, and of our Motives for this Resolution.—The most prevailing one was that according to the Estimate laid before us, the expence of this usefull Work would be rather less than at Bombay.

14 Lest you should apprehend from seeing the Expences of this Schooner as they will stand on your Books that we have been misled in our Judgement or conceived a wrong opinion of the matter we beg leave to explain to you the causes from whence the Charge of Building here will for the present appear more expensive than at Bombay

15 The Estimate of the Expence of building the Schooner, was formed according to the then present Market price of Materials But as the Timbers and plank supplied out of your Store house for this use was bought at a time when these Articles were considerably dearer than they were when the Calculation of the Expence was made their Expence will consequently exceed the Estimate & the charge will appear higher than at Bombay—For the above reason therefore and likewise Lest you should from this appearance of expence direct us in future not to build anymore Vessells here on your account We have given you this explanation

16 We have the pleasure to inform you one of these Vessells already hath been & the other will be launched in a few months hence

17 In the 26th paragraph of the same letter we informed you that your Ship the St Helena should be employed in bringing timbers from Pigue—She was accordingly dispatched in March last on that Service to touch at Madras in her way with some provisions & four Laaks of Rupees we had laden on Board her for that Presidency & to take in a Cargo from thence to purchase one of Timbers with at Pigue

18 She arrived safe with the Gentlemen at Fort St George & they have furnished her with a proper Cargo for the Pigue market

19 We have the pleasure to inform you that the Surveys to the Eastward are Completed so far as regards the outer Sands and mouths of the several Inlets & the Interior Surveys are now making a very accurate plan of this useful Work hath been delivered in to us by Mr Ritchie who was employed on this important Business His assiduity in this duty and the accuracy with which this plan appears to have been executed hath recommended him highly to our Notice a Copy of this plan is now making & shall be transmitted by this Ship—

20 The devastations of the Enemy & the want of Rain for many months rendered grain so exceedingly scarce at your Presidency at Fort St George that they were apprehensive of the most distressing consequences to the Inhabitants particularly as they were persuaded it would rise rather

Consn 10th April

Consn 1st August

than fall in its price before the Monsoon—thus circumstanced & being in want of a very considerable Quantity for Garrison store they earnestly entreated us to Compleat the charter party Tonnage of two of your Ships and dispatch them as early as possible—which they promised to return to us before the setting in of the Monsoon.

21. In consequence of so pressing an application on so material a Subject we could not hesitate a moment in taking measures to prevent the distressfull Circumstances the Gentlemen at Fort St George were apprehensive of.

22. We accordingly ordered the Ankerwyke & the Lord Holland to be surveyed & to be got ready for this Consn. 1st August Service—and directed the Buxey immediately to prepare a sufficient Quantity of Rice to be sent on those Ships.

23. The Scarcity of this Article however prevailed so much at our own Settlement that he represented to us it would be impossible for him to provide two Cargoes before the setting in of the Monsoon at the same time Captain Ross laid before us some weighty Reasons why he should be glad we would alter the destination of the Ankerwyke.

24. From these motives we were induced to change our Intentions of sending round the Ankerwyke to Madras and determined that a second Cargo should be dispatched to them in the Ship that we shall send to be dispatched by them to England.

25. The Lord Holland accordingly was dispatched with a Compleat Cargo the 14 Instt. But it is with great Concern we are to inform you that on the 21st of this month we received a Letter from Captain Nairn acquainting us that his Ship was lost the 17th upon the Eastern Brace We have ordered a Court of Enquiry to be held on the Conduct of the Pilot who had Charge of the Ship & the Master of the Sloop that attended her, & we have the honour to enclose to you in this Packet a List of the Crew that have been saved.

26. We are the more concerned at this Loss on account of the distress the Gentlemen at Fort St George will feel from it, since the scarcity of Rice is so great here it is impossible for us to replace the Supply we intended sending round to them before the Season is too far advanced to risk a Ship upon their Coast.

27. The only reparation we can make them is to send round another Ship as soon as the Season will admit of it & this we shall not fail of doing.

28. The Gentlemen at Fort Marlbro requested a Supply from Madras of 60000 Dollars in case you should not send them any

Treasure from England—but the distresses of the Gentlemen at the latter Presidency rendered impossible for them to comply with this request & they therefore informed us of it in hopes that we might be able to comply therewith

29 As no opportunity was likely to offer for us to Supply Fort Marlbro with this Sum and indeed if there had it was not in our power to procure that Sum in Dollars we acquainted the Gentlemen at Madrass that if they could by any means answer the demand we would reimburse the amount before the End of the Year, and we have since had the pleasure to hear from Madras that they are in hopes to furnish the Presidency of Fort Marlbro with this sum having already prepared upwards of 20000 Dollars that they purposed sending on the Royal Admiral which was upon their Coast & was taking in Cargo of Salt for that Presidency

30 You may be assured Gentlemen we shall as far as it lies in our power pay an implicit Obedience to your orders relative to the arrival & departure of Foreign Ships but we apprehend it will be impossible to ascertain the particulars of their Imports & Exports

31 It is now almost three years since we first expressed our apprehensions to you, that the great export of Silver Specie from hence, would prove of the most pernicious Consequence to the Welfare of these Provinces, The Experience of every year increased those apprehensions & of course obliged us, not only to repeat but to Strengthen our Remonstrances on this important Subject It is with much concern that we observe you deem these our apprehensions to proceed more from speculation than reality In a point of so much importance, in which the Wellbeing of the State is so very deeply interested, we think we should not have performed our Duty to you, our Employers, if we had not submitted to your Consideration our Opinions on an Evil which tho somewhat remote, was yet most apparent It was also highly expedient that you should be fully informed of the state of our Currency, because it was in your power, & yours only, to apply the efficacious Remedy to this growing Evil, and we will now venture to lay before you our Sentiments at large on the Subject

32 It is certain that the Revenues in every part of the provinces have been & are still paid in Silver Specie, nor was it to be supposed that a Country into which so many Millions had been imported within the last Century, could be entirely drained of Currency, within so short a space as the Period of your acquiring the Duannee We carried our views much farther and we were desirous not only to restrain the Export, but to encourage the Import of Specie, as the only certain mode of securing the future payment of the Revenues



in Silver; Our last Advices will acquaint you that the Terror of a Scarcity of Silver is by no means confined to the Presidency; and now we must inform you that the Ministers find the utmost difficulty in Collecting the Revenues; and this difficulty does not arise from any deficiency in the Harvests but from a real Scarcity of Current Coin; so that altho' we may be able to collect the whole of this years Revenues in specie, yet unless the Importation of Silver is soon & that too considerably increased, we may venture to assure you, that the day is not very far distant, when part of the Revenues must of necessity be received in the Produce of the lands.

33. From experience it is incontestibly evident, that whatever may be the Disbursements of the Company, the foreign Nations or private Traders, yet so long as Silver is exported from Bengall, & we receive no adequate Supplies by Importation, we must expect that the want of currency will become still more and more universal; This is not a matter of opinion only, but a Judgement founded upon Facts the truth of which is self Evident; and from hence it must clearly appear, that the arguments we have repeatedly urged on this Subject were founded on just principles since for these three or four years past, the foreign Nations have ceased to import any considerable Sums in Bullion; They have purchased their Investments with the money supplied by our Countrymen, for Bills on their respective Companies, joined to the produce of their Imports from Europe; and here we cannot help observing, that your absolute prohibition against receiving Money into our Treasury for Bills of Exchange on England, has been one of the principal Causes of the Scarcity of Silver. But as upon a Subject of this Importance, not only to the present State but to the future Welfare of your Possessions, no opinions should be advanced which cannot be fully supported, we must beg leave to remark that altho' the Sums of Money exported from hence on your account have been exceeding great yet had your Treasury been open at the usual Rate of Exchange, No British Subject would then have embarked his property upon the precarious Chance of a Foreign Remittance, necessity only obliged them to seek for such Channels to realize their Fortunes; And had the foreign Nations been deprived of the immense sums of private property, which they have received in India during the last four years, they must either have imported Bullion in Bengall, to purchase their Investments, or the whole Trade of these Provinces must have fallen into your hands; In either case your point would have been answered; for if the Bullion had been imported by the foreign Companies, the progress of that Bullion from the Mints to your Treasury would have been speedy and certain; since all Bullion imported for the Article of Commerce must ultimately centre with you as the proprietors of the Revenue; And if no Bullion had been

imported by the foreign Companies, and your Treasury had been open to receive every Tender for Remittance, all Sums so received might have been employed in the Increase of your Investment here, which would have enabled you to pay the amount of our Draughts on your Treasury in England; And by this great Extension of Commerce, a very Considerable increase would have been made to the Revenues of the Crown.

34. Nor are these the only Evils, which have resulted from our strict obedience to your positive orders on this Subject; for besides the Degree of Rivalship in the trade of India, which the French, from these Resources only, have been able to maintain in Europe, we have the Mortification to find that large sums have been already disbursed on the Fortifications of Pondicherry, and they are still carrying on very Capital Works at an immense Expence. That the French have secretly exported Silver from hence to the Coast we have not a doubt; but had your Treasury been open, the French just then beginning to resettle a ruined Colony, and that too under all the disadvantages of a ruined Credit would have found the utmost difficulty to have raised Funds sufficient for their Investments and other ordinary expences without ever attempting to construct such Fortifications as may in some future time prove of the most material Prejudice to your Affairs.

35. Altho' your orders are so positive for us to furnish your China Council with Twenty four Laaks of Rupees for the Service of the year 1770 yet the State of your Treasury will at one View convince you of our utter inability to give them any assistance whatsoever. We observe that you have been pleased to export Two hundred Thousand Pounds in specie to China, and have given Permission to your China Council to draw on you for a like Sum, for the purposes of Investment. The absolute Necessity of providing Funds for the Purchase of your China Cargoes, we presume, could be your only inducement, either for your Exportation of Specie or your Permission to draw Bills of Exchange but here we cannot help remarking, that these very measures point out in the strongest manner, the unhappy Effects of your restructive (*sic*) orders to us; for it has been made very apparent, that if we had been impowered to draw on you, we should either have been enabled very considerably to increase your investment from hence, or the foreign Companies would have been obliged to export Bullion for the purchase of theirs; and in this latter case, the supply of Bullion brought into Bengall would have relieved our Apprehensions from the Scarcity of Currency, & might have empowered us to send a further Exportation of Bullion to China; of course you would not have been under the Necessity,

either of sending Specie to China or granting Permission for Bills of Exchange to be drawn on you from thence.

36. We are not Without well grounded Apprehensions, that even the Permission, which you have granted to your China Council to draw Bills of Exchange on you, will also contribute to encrease the Scarcity of Silver in these Provinces: a mode of Remittance to Europe through your Channel, is much preferred before those of any foreign Companies, and Individuals will always endeavour to convey their Silver to that place, which presents the fairest Prospect of realizing their Fortunes. That Remittances might have been made from hence upon terms more advantageous to your Interest & less liable to distress your affairs at home, than from any other of your Presidencies or Factories abroad, will be fully apparent, when we assure you, that Tendets of very considerable Sums would have been made to us, for to be paid in three equal Payments at one two & three years date at 2sh 3d the Current Rupee with an Interest at 4 p Cent untill the time of Payment; but altho' we were conscious that the Measure taken in all its several points of view would have been very much to your advantage, yet your Prohibition was so absolute we declined all Overtures for Remittance.

37. And here it is most fitting (but with the utmost deference to your Superior Judgement) that we lay before you our Opinion on your Prohibition of Bills of Exchange, drawn from this place on your Treasury at home; for whilst you fix the Rate of Exchange so much below the Par of Foreign Nations, even the small sum for which you admit draughts to be made is not filled up; so that in fact it amounts to real Prohibition. But Gentlemen we would submit it to your most mature Consideration, in the Situation which you now are, the Supreme Rulers of a Rich, & fertile Kingdom, and the Prosperity of that Kingdom depending so much on the measures you are pleased to adopt, whether a trifling advantage to be obtained by Remittance, is or ought to be an object in Competition with the Prosperity of your territorial Possessions, from whence you reap such golden Harvests. We consider the State of your Affairs in these Parts in a light widely different from the times when a mere commercial Interest was your only Object; an extensive & beneficial Trade was then carried on, by means of large exports of Bullion from our mother Country; but since you have acquired such valuable territorial Possessions, your Trade from hence may be considered more as the Channel for conveying your Revenues to Britain, than as only a Mercantile system and as so great a Change has been affected in your Constitution, that you may presume the great advantages you now enjoy and perpetuate them to your latest posterity, we humbly apprehend, that the state of your Provinces

under our Administration requires every aid you can possibly give to encourage the Merchant & Manufacturer: Now it is clear beyond all Contradiction, that to enable you annually to collect your Revenues in Specie, there must be annual Importations of Specie into Bengall, as well to supply the Currency of that specie which is exported as for what is melted down for use and what is secretly hoarded up by Individuals according to the invariable custom of the Country: you yourselves cannot entertain any thoughts of exporting silver into Bengall, where then must we look for our Supplies? If we except the few Laaks from the Gulphs, it must be from the foreign Companies only: But can we flatter ourselves with the hopes that foreign Companies will import Bullion into Bengall, whilst they can raise supplies in India from our Countrymen equal to their annual Demands, should you open your Treasury doors, you remove the Cause of these foreign Remittances & the Effects will cease of course. We observe you express your hopes that from the large amount, for which the foreign Companies have already drawn on Europe, this mode of Remittance will soon be at an End; but here we would wish to remind you, that to the very large Sums which were ready for remittance in 1765 must be added the amount of what has been acquired since that period; and whilst your Influence is so extensive, your settlement so flourishing (*sic*), your Dependants and those who have the advantage of your Protection, so numerous in this Country, the private acquisitions of Industry, amongst so many Individuals must amount annually to a very considerable sum; which must sooner or later be remitted through foreign Channels, unless your Treasury be open to receive it.

38. You require from us facts to prove the General Scarcity of Currency: Right Sorry are we that our situation enables us to produce such incontrovertible Evidences. Instead of the 70 or 80 Laaks which you suppose to be annually invested by the private Trader, we give you the most positive assurances, that there has not been even 20 Laaks advanced for Investment in this year, merely for want of Silver; and further we must add the pressing Representations which are made from almost every Aurung, that the Manufacturer is unemployed, & that unless Advances are made Necessity will oblige him to quit the Loom, to seek out another Mode of obtaining a Subsistence: and such is the great Stagnation of Trade and the general Decay of Credit that the most opulent amongst the Native Merchants or Inhabitants of this Presidency, from the great Scarcity of Silver, find so much Difficulty in recovering Money they had formerly lent, that they prefer locking up their Fortunes in their Treasure Chests to lending it at Interest even to the most respectable Characters amongst your Servants,—and whilst we are treating on this Subject we ought not to pass over in Silence the very reduced

state of your Treasury for fifteen months past. At no one time have we had fifteen Laaks of Rupees in advance for the space of a Month: on the Contrary demands have continually been made upon us before we were even in a Condition to answer them, as will fully appear by Reference to the Treasury accounts down to this very day; nay so much have we been distressed for money, that more than once we have been considerably in Arrears to the Army, & have been under the necessity of borrowing Money on Bond for defraying our Current Expences, you yourselves are of opinion that it is prudent always to preserve a certain sum in our Treasury against Contingencies: We concur fully in that Opinion, & we think that it would be impolitik to attempt to realize in England, the Ballance of the Revenues before we have formed in Bengall a sufficient Fund to answer every sudden or unexpected Exigency of the state; for no power in Indostan depends upon Collections in time of War to defray Military Expences; and of all the Powers in the East we ought to be the last to adopt such a system, because as our Chief strength consists in Infantry, & those of our enemies in Cavalry, our Provinces are thereby more exposed to Incursions and Depredations, which will always materially affect your Collections: In short without a sufficient fund of money being established, your Military Force is deficient of its chief support; since in some future time, we may be superior in the Field, & yet from this cause we may be reduced to very disagreeable Extremities; and we think the late distressfull situation of your Affairs on the coast of Coromandel is a very striking Illustration of this Opinion.

39. As your Servants we have paid an implicit Obedience to your positive Injunctions on the Subject of Remittance, but when these Apprehensions, which we formerly expressed of a declining Currency, can no longer be treated as speculative, since we now feel in a great degree those very Evils we long since apprehended; when we reflect, that so long as this system continues every year instead of Relief by Importation, adds to the general Calamity; when we reflect that our natural Enemies the French, are grasping at every Remittance, & thereby profiting from our impolitick measures; and when we know that Bills of exchange to the enormous amount of between five & six hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling, are to be granted by foreign Companies to our Countrymen in the Course of this year we cannot but express our Apprehensions of the Consequence of your Prohibition & we make no doubt but these our Representations will be taken into your most serious Consideration.—

40. Your woollen Goods, Copper, Lead and Cotton Imported from Bombay on the Ships Thames and Shrewsbury have been disposed of and the account Sales is entered in Consultation of the 15th May.

41. We are sorry to remark to you that the Europe Articles have in general sold near 20 p Cent cheaper than they did the last Season which we apprehend is principally owing to Europeans being prohibited sending them into Shouja Dowlah's Country the very few if any native Merchants who prosecute that trade & the general Scarcity of Specie that prevails throughout the Kingdom.

42. Your orders on the subject of an Investment from hence have hitherto been urgent & peremptory and as far as it was in our power an implicit Obedience has been paid to them. But we think it necessary to give you this early information that altho' for the present year you may expect to receive as large a one (*sic*) as you received the last yet for the future you must Contract your Expectations on this point and not rely on such ample provisions hereafter.

43. The causes that have led us into this proposed deviation from your orders being such as came under the Consideration of the Board in its secret Department more properly than this; the Subject was debated there; and as in those proceedings you will find it more amply treated upon we beg leave to refer you to them for a particular Information.

44. The Governor having thought proper whilst he was at the City to take that Opportunity of obtaining what Information he could with Respect to the manner in which the Investment at Cossimbazar had been conducted laid before us the Result of his Enquiries upon this Subject in a Letter entered on our Consultation the 19th of June and the Regulations he deemed necessary to reform the abuses which appeared in the Course of his Researches.

45. In these Researches the Governor hath investigated the source of the several apprehensions so generally complained of and in this Letter he hath clearly pointed out the cause of Complaint & proposed what we deem and hope an Efficacious Remedy for its pernicious Effects.

46. This Remedy is a total change of the Mode of conducting this Branch of your Investment & adopting the System of providing it by Contracts.—But you will find the Reasons for this Measures so clearly & we flatter ourselves so satisfactorily stated in the Presidents letter, and it contains so minute an Information of every particular you will naturally wish to be acquainted with, we think it unnecessary Gentlemen, to enter into a recapitulation of them here & therefore beg leave to refer you to the Consultation of that Day where in this Letter is recorded.

47. From the Calculation we made in Consultation the 23d. June of the Quantity of Salt petre we may expect this year we formed according to that a Distribution of it to the  
 Consn. 23 June Foreign Nations and the different Presidencies and We beg leave to assure you Gentlemen your orders regarding this Article shall be strictly obeyed.

48. It seems from your Letter dated the 11th of November 1768 that the Select Committee have treated in their Letters to you upon the state of Commerce in these Kingdoms and the great Scarcity of Manufactures we therefore extracted your reply to their Letter and referred those paragraphs which contained your answer to their Board.

49. A Representation concerning trade in these Provinces from Mahomed Reza Cawn hath been laid before us and on a mature  
 Consn. 28 March Consideration of the measures to be pursued in order to recover it from the declining state it hath lately fallen into.—To fix upon a plan less liable to Objection, than the mode in which it is carried on at present and more Calculated for the Ease and Convenience of the Natives and encouragement of every private Merchant.—None appeared to us so immediately necessary as restricting and Curtailing the undue Influence of Gomastahs who from their perwannahs derive an authority to the Prejudice of Native Merchants and to the great oppression of the Manufacturers.

50. To prevent these abuses and the many Complaints constantly preferred against them we were of opinion all Gomastahs  
 Consn. 28th March should be on a footing & therefore resolved to prohibit any purwannahs being granted & such as were in force to be recalled.

51. Apprehensive that Trade met with many Obstructions, That the private Merchants suffered many Impediments and that an Improper authority was exerted by your Servants stationed as Residents at the out Factories,—we judged it highly necessary those dependent on Cossimbazar should be recalled unless their Residence were absolutely essential to your Investment.

52. And that we might know whether, and how far it was necessary to have Servants stationed at these Subordinates,—& if any particular advantage was derived or good purpose answered therefrom that might not be effected if the Investment was provided under the Inspection of the Chief and Council at Cossimbazar we wrote to them for their opinion in these Points,

53 We accordingly received their Opinions and in Consultation the 26th April came to the Resolution of recalling the Residents at Bauleah Rungpore, Commercolly  
 Consn 26 April and Jungepore, In which Consultation, our Reasons for this Resolution are fully set forth

54 Immediately on the Receipt of your Commands of the 11th November 1768 we wrote to the Resident at the Durbar to watch  
 Consn 1st June every opportunity to get Drafts for our future supplies to Bombay which he hath promised to do—We have since received an application from that Presidency for six Laaks of Rupees which they request to be furnished with by the 1st of April next and that two of it may be in silver—We have assured them they may rely on our supplying them with this sum in the manner & by the time they require it

55 The surviving family of Suffraz Cawn having been represented to us to be in a very distressed situation—We could not see an ancient Family reduced from a State of affluence and splendour to want and misery without stretching forth our Hands to relieve them & therefore desired the Governor and the Resident at the Durbar to enquire into the particular Circumstances of this Distressed and numerous Family—at their representation we have added a thousand Rupees a Month to their former allowance untill your pleasure is known but in lieu of this Indulgence their Talook is to be reserved to your sole use & benefit—and we cannot admit a doubt Gentlemen but that you will confirm an Indulgence so charitably bestowed

56 When Lord Clive visited the Bahar province he found the Collections & every Branch of the administration in disorder and  
 Consn 28 March decay owing to the imprudent management of Mah Rajah Dirge Narrain by which he became considerably indebted to Government In consequence of which the Jaghire which had been settled on the Mah Rajah of 22000 Rupees p annum was reannexed to the Government He is now reduced to a State of Indigence & Distress We have therefore in Consideration of the Services his Brother Ram Narrain hath rendered you & of his Jaghire being reannexed to the Government allowed him a pension of 1200 Rupees p Month

57 You have already been acquainted Gentlemen in our Letter of the 13th September 1768 & again in our Letter of the 2d Februry 1769 that the Dutch had complained of a murder and Robbery which had been committed in the Burdwan districts and of the method we had proposed to accommodate this Matter in the most equitable and amicable manner



58. The Director & Council of Houghley have again renewed their Complaints on this Subject that the Nabob will not contribute any part of the Sum their Servants were robbed of and again requested our Interposition with him on this occasion. In answer to which we have informed them that we are sorry their application to the Nabob has been ineffectual, but having already interested ourselves in their Behalf as far as lay in our power and his Excellency having refused our Request, we could not think of interfering further in the Affairs or presume to urge any thing more to him on the Subject.—But at the same time to convince them of our desire to afford every possible Reparation for the Robbery,—We again Solicited & prevailed upon the Rajah of Burdwan to pay it & they accordingly received this sum from the Collector General.

59. Our Chief & Council of Chittagong having some doubts in what manner they ought to proceed in trials of Capital Offences as well as in regard to the prosecution and punishment of Decoits or Robbers whose Depredations on the Borders of that province had arrived to a very high pitch and greatly distressed the Country & Inhabitants requested our Instructions on these points.

60. Our Reply to this Question was, that as you have been invested with the Government of the Province of Chittagong its Interests whether judicial or political must equally become the care of those who are entrusted with the Welfare and Management thereof.—That the mode of Government which hath hitherto been established for the preservation of the Rights & Liberties of the People should be maintain'd. The Faugedary of the Province should exist & its Jurisdiction principally rest with the Chief. But for his ease & satisfaction in all judicial Proceedings & Capital offences that his Council should jointly superintend the Court of Fougedary for the enforcing and executing of those Laws.

61. The Collector General having expressed to us his apprehensions that if the Salt made in your lands was allowed to be removed from the Churs before the Duty was collected it would be impossible to prevent Considerable Quantities being smuggled and you being deprived of a part of your Revenues.—We judged the most effectual method to prevent these Consequences was to have the Duties paid at granting the Perwannahs for the removal of the Salt from the Churs and accordingly came to that Resolution.

62. We have the Pleasure to inform you that since your Fortifications have been under the Charge of Colonel Campbell they have gone on with great briskness and alacrity.—And since his

arrival there has been is great progress made in them as we could possibly expect considering the Shortness of the time & the number of Workmen that has been employed The Zeal that this officer hath hitherto shewn for your Service seems to presage a speedy Conclusion to a work which hath cost so much time & so great an Expence—His Conduct hitherto hath likewise fully justified every Commendation that you and the Gentlemen at Bombay have bestowed on his Character, and we think we may venture to say from the Instances we have had of his abilities assiduity, and attention, you have been happy in the Choice of such a person for your Chief Engineer and that whilst he continues in that Station you may entertain the most pleasing hopes that can be conceived from a Man of abilities in his profession & who hath a zeal for your Service

63 We have entered into Contracts for making Aqueducts and  
 Cons 8 May 3d Sluices to the New Ravclins for digging their  
 July 27th April 13th Excavations—for finishing the Brick Wall of  
 July [ ] Sept'r the Dinapore Cantonments—for making gun  
 Carriages and for Bricks for the use of your fortifications

64 You have been informed want of materials—Chunam in  
 particular had been an impediment in our carrying on the Works—  
 & that to remove this Obstruction we had desired  
 General Letter the the Government to provide us with this article  
 13th Sept'r [1769?] from Syllet—But we are sorry to say they have  
 not answered our Expectations—and we have therefore requested  
 their permission to put this Business under the Inspection of Mr  
 Kelsall which they have consented to & we hope  
 Consn 3d July by this means we shall procure as large a  
 Quantity of this Article as that Country produces

65 We had the honour to inform you in our Letter of the  
 28th March last that Colonel Campbell and Captain Watson had  
 laid before us proposals for Constructing Docks  
 Consn 14 April &c&c which we had accepted & granted them a  
 piece of Ground situated just without the Line of Defence of our  
 Fortifications they have since requested that the Golahs Houses  
 &c&c upon the above spot of Ground may be removed at the expira-  
 tion of nine Months which time has been granted in order that the  
 Owners of them may be put to as little Inconvenience as possible

66 In consequence of this Request we directed the Collector  
 General to have the spot of Ground valued—to make known to the  
 inhabitants they were to remove their Habita-  
 Consn 14th April tions within the space of nine Months and to  
 allot them such other places for their Houses as they might apply

for, at the same time we acquainted Colonell Campbell & Captain Watson we meant not by this Indulgence to recede from our former Resolution of withholding our Consent to the Commencement of this Work until the Fortifications and projected works were reported to be in a proper State of Defence.

67. We are sorry to acquaint you that in April last a Fire broke out at Patna in the Citadel which communicated itself to the Factory & burned down the Buxey Connah part of the Chiefs & some of the Assistants apartments.—The loss you have sustained by this accident amounts to 8968 Rupees.

68. At the Recommendation of the Chief we have granted them permission to erect temporary Buildings to serve untill a New Factory is finished rather than repair the parts of the old one that have suffered.

69. But since the Receipt of your Orders of the 11th Novr. last we have in Obedience thereto ordered a stop to be put to the Building of a Factory untill we shall have fixed upon a proper plan conformable to the Instructions you have been pleased to Convey to us.

70. Your orders regarding the Cantonments at Burrumpore were anticipated as you will have been informed long before this Letter can come to your hands Those at Dinapoor we can assure you have been carried on with as much frugality & Expedition as possible,—and we have the pleasure to inform you that part of the 3d Brigade are already cantoned and that the whole will be finished in the course of another Season.

71. We informed you in our Letter of the 28th March that to relieve the universal distress of the settlement on account of the want of specie and to remedy this alarming Evil  
 Consn. 17th June we had determined to recommend to the Nizamut the Establishment of a new Gold Currency. We are now to acquaint you that this Measure hath taken place & that we were informed by the Governor and Resident at the Durbar soon after it had been established that the Mohurs which had been struck at the Mints of Dacca, Patna & the City had met with a ready Circulation & were received with general Satisfaction.

72. You have already been furnished with such accurate description of the State of the Burdwan province that little is left for us to say on this Subject we shall therefore confine ourselves to a few general Heads & beg leave to refer to you for a more particular Information to the Consultations wherein we have formed our Resolutions regarding this province. In Consultation the 13th of

July is recorded a Letter from the Collector General regarding the Collections of this valuable District, and a few necessary orders that we passed in Consequence.—In Consultation the 17th August we settled the Malguzary for the ensuing year at 3750000 which we have the pleasure to inform you is an encrease upon the last years Malguzary of one Laak of Rupees.

73. Every year since we have held the Calcutta Lands hath been a pleasing & convincing proof to us how much this method of collecting their Revenues is preferable to letting them out until their value can be justly ascertained. We say a pleasing proof Gentlemen because every year has been attended with an increase of Revenue without Oppression to the Ryott & we say a convincing one because we can venture to assure you such an Increase would not have been made if the Collections had not have been under our own management. In the Consultation of the 14th of this month is entered a Letter from the Collector General together with the accounts—relative to these Lands which will exhibit to your View a clear, full & we flatter ourselves a Satisfactory account of their present State.—In the same Consultation you will find the orders we passed upon this Letter & that we have resolved to continue the Lands under the management of the Collector General.—We cannot dismiss this Subject without remarking to you Gentlemen that since we have taken them into our hands the Revenues have been considerably Increased.

74. In obedience to your orders all promotions in your Army are regularly recorded on our Consultations and you will find many were made in our Consultation of the 27th of April.

75. General Smith having requested our permission to resign the Command of the 2d Brigade in order to relieve him from that particular Duty & to afford him more leisure to attend to the general Duty of the Army before he quits the Country which he purposes doing this year, we have complied with his request & appointed Lieutt. Colonel Chapman, Colonel of the Generals Regiment & to the Command of that Brigade.

76. We had the honour to inform you in our Letter of the 28th March that Mr John Sumner had requested our permission to take his passage to Europe on a foreign Ship on account of his ill state of health.—He accordingly embarked on a French Ship but she met with an accident in attempting to get out of the River which rendered her unable to proceed on her Voyage & he hath since requested our Indulgence in allowing him to resume his former Station which we have granted him.

77. The Residency of Bauleah which was formerly the station of a Member of the Board of Cossimbuzar being withdrawn the Gentlemen of that Factory represented to  
 Consn. 18 July us two Members & the Chief were sufficient to Conduct the Business there,—and we being of opinion that Mr Barwell who filled that station might be of more real service at the Presidency have recalled him.

78. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Writers who came from England in the Ships Lioness, Britannia, Lord Holland & Royal Charlottee are safely arrived & have been stationed in different offices at the Presidency.

79. We are sorry to inform you that three of your Servants on the Civil List died this Season Viz. Messrs. Robert Maddison, John Dick & John Briscoe.

80. Mr Charles William Boughton having received advice from England of an Estate left to him on the Condition of his adopting the name of the Testator Rous, The Additional name of Rous has at his Request been made in your List of Covenanted Servants.—

81. It was with particular Satisfaction we were informed by Mr Russell the Military Paymaster General that by new modelling the Books of that office for 1766 and the  
 Consn. 8th [...] unwearied application of Mr Harwood the Tryal Ballance had been made & they were ready for closing.—But as there were many Ballances which may be deemed desperate, the Persons against whom they stand being either Dead, Indigent or sent to Europe on the late Combination, he requested our orders whether they should be wrote off or continued on the Subsequent.

82. We have directed these Ballances to be continued on the Subsequent Books under the Head of undigested accounts until further Enquiries have been made Concerning them.

83. As the obstacle which hath hitherto impeded the subsequent Books being ballanced is now removed we hope those for the Succeeding year will soon be finished.

84. We have already had occasion to mention Mr Harwoods Merit to you in the discharge of his Duty as Sub Accomptant—and  
 Consn. 1st June great as it was in that Station in this Instance it is still more conspicuous and claims more particular notice for it was an arduous and laborious Task foreign to the Departments allotted to him by the Board and Chearfully undertaken at the Request of Mr Floyer when he was Military Pay Master General.

85 General Smith was no sooner acquainted with your sentiments regarding the Two Laaks of Rupees offered to him by his Majesty and which we informed you in our Letter of the 13th Sept. 1769 we had permitted him to accept until your pleasure was known, that he assured us he should fully Comply therewith by repaying that sum to his Majesty and in Obedience to your orders the General laid before us a Letter from the Nabob's Vizier and his Majesty's Receipts for this Sum

86 From the Translation of the former recorded in Consultation the 7th Instt you will perceive Shuja ul Dowlah renewed the offer he had before made to the  
 Consn 7th Septu General and hath replaced this sum in the Royal Treasury In consequence of which the General's Bonds and those that his Securities entered into have been delivered up to them —

87 Lieutenant Colonel Campbell your Chief Engineer hath represented to us in a Letter recorded in Consultation the 14th September that when he entered into your Service his Majesty was graciously pleased to grant him leave of absence for three years only and requested to apply through us for the same Indulgence of an Annuity of 500 £ p annum for Life as was formerly granted to Mr Robbins & Colonel Scot in hopes that meeting our Continuance and Support he may be encouraged to solicit a Continuation of his Majesty's indulgence

88 We have before had Occasion to Speak of the Merits of this Officer, & we have done it in so ample a manner that nothing is left for us to say upon them here, We beg leave however to remark to you that in our opinion it is an Indulgence he will highly merit and which you cannot more worthily bestow,—an Indulgence Gentlemen that will be more than repaid to you by Colonel Campbell's services, if we may be allowed to judge from what we have already seen of his conduct—and as we cannot admit of a doubt that he will disappoint us in our opinion of his Character so we will not entertain one, that if he does not, but you will grant the Request he has made through us which we beg Leave to support in the warmest manner at the same time we would propose that this Indulgence should be granted conditionally that Colonel Campbell concludes his Services as much to the approbation of the Governour & Council as he has commenced them

89 We are sorry to inform you that you have lost the Services of a good Officer in Major Graham owing to a Conduct not less unbecoming than accountable in a Person of his Rank and Character—since none of that Rank was better acquainted with his

Duty as an Officer, nor no one could have departed more widely from it.

90. The particular Circumstances of this Affair wou'd be too tedious to relate minutely & we therefore beg leave to refer you to the Letters & Consultations marked in the margin which will fully explain to you the Rise & progress thereof, throughout the whole of which we are sorry to say Major Graham hath shewn a very refractory and disobedient spirit.

91. After delaying for a Considerable time to make the Concessions we thought were due from him for the disrespect he had shewn to our authority & to General Smith, We called upon him for his reasons why he had thus trifled with our orders—In answer to which he wrote the very extraordinary Letter, that is recorded in our Consultation of the 21st of this Month.

92. We are sensible Gentlemen that the Supreme power you have been pleased to vest in us should never be exerted but on urgent Occasions and even then with the utmost tenderness and delicacy—The present Instance we deemed one of those Occasions and we flatter Ourselves it is a convincing one that we pay a strict Regard to the Notions we have professed to entertain of the power that is placed in our hands.

93. From our Consultation of the 21st Inst. you will perceive that we acted with the utmost Lenity towards Major Graham that we even sought for and pointed out the means to him of attoning for his Offence.—But these he slighted and Obstinateley persisted in avowing Sentiments & Reflections highly injurious to General Smith's Character, Sentiments that were full of Invective & in the highest degree disrespectfull to his Commander in Chief.

94. Forced to this necessity no alternative was left us and Major Graham reduced us to the disagreeable Situation of dismissing him the Service which we thought our indispensable duty to do in order to preserve that Subordination and Discipline on which the very existence of your Army so essentially depends—to support our own authority and that of the Commander in Chiefs & to enforce that Respect and Deference, which is due to his Station.

95. In obedience to your orders we have assured both the Agents to the Army & Navy donation that we will pay them before  
 Consn. 7 Sept. the End of the year at present our Treasury is  
 so much reduced by the large draughts that have  
 been made from it, that We unable (*sic*) to discharge even the small  
 Ballance that Remains on the former account—But at the Request of  
 the agents to the Army who have represented to us they have demands

made upon them which they cannot discharge, we have granted them Interest Notes for small sums that they may negotiate them.

96. The Important Object you have been pleased to recommend to our attention of abolishing the Batta of Sunauts is a very intricate subject & will require very mature deliberation particularly the Measures to be pursued for breaking through the Combination that will doubtless be formed against abolishing a Custom that hath been so long established by which Numbers of Persons are supported.

97. We are endeavouring to gain every insight into the Subject we possibly can procure & when we have fully informed ourselves of such particulars as we imagine are necessary before we proceed upon this important Work you may be assured Gentlemen your orders on this point shall be carried into execution.

98. The Reason why so small a Sum appears upon your Books on account of the Company's share of the profit on Salt & Beetle nut is the great difficulty the Society have met with in collecting their debts for the sale of these Articles owing to the great scarcity of specie, they expect shortly to receive considerable sums from the Merchants who purchased them & out of the first money that they pay shall be discharged what is due on account of the first year's Concern.

99. Although the method we observed last year of sending you samples of Rupees does not in every respect correspond with the directions you have given us in your letter  
 Consn 25 Augst. of the 11th November last,—yet we flatter ourselves it will answer every purpose, you can desire however for the future we shall observe the orders contained in the 65 Paragraph of the above Letter as a standing Rule.

100. As soon as the State of the Service will admit of it the Measure you have been pleased to recommend in the 95 Paragraph of the same Letter relative to having more  
 Consn. 25th Augst. European Officers attached to the Brigade Sepoys shall be carried into Execution & we beg leave to inform you that the Judicious regulation you have directed us to observe that no officer should have the Command of a Battalion but such as was acquainted with the Language hath heretofore been in general attended to.

101. In order that we may fully answer what we conceive to be your Intentions in the 98 Paragraph of the same Letter We have directed the Town Major to deliver in to us  
 Consn 25th Augst. annually a particular & accurate List of the Officers of every Corps brought down to the 31st August that it may



be transmitted to you by the first Ship—& the Commanding officer of Brigades & Corps of artillery to furnish the Town Major annually with an Alphabetical long Roll of every Non Commissioned officer & Soldier under their respective Commands by the 31st of December from which he is to form a General one that we may in like manner transmit the same to you.

102. You will perceive by General Smith's Letter entered on the Committee proceedings that his proposal to cast light brass Field pieces and to attach two three pounders to each Battalion of Seapoys received their Approbation. In consequence Captain Du Gloss of the Engineer Corps established a Foundery & has succeeded in casting light Guns equal to our warmest Expectations. The great Quantity of Old Brass Cannon that was in our Magazines & which on several Occasions had been taken from the Enemy has and will enable us to cast Guns of this Caliber at no great Expence, but we apprehend that without such assistance the Expence of casting Cannon in India would very far exceed the Cost in England.

Consn. 8 August We have ordered Captain Du Gloss to the Presidency & we propose erecting a Foundery in the new Fort,—but we hope this attempt on our part will not prevent you from sending our supplies of brass Eighteen twelve and six pounders.

103. In the Postscript of our Letter by the Shrewsbury dated the 4th April last we acquainted you that we had received a Letter from Mr Williamson which came too late for us to record upon our Consultations or to reply to before the dispatch of that Ship—as this Letter contained matters which principally related to some Circumstances that had passed between the Governour & him it was referred to the President who hath fully replied thereto in a Minute entered on Consultation the 6th of July and not only refuted the very extraordinary assertions Mr Williamson had made, but set that Gentlemans Conduct in a more unfavourable point of View than it had hitherto appeared,—at the Presidents desire a Copy of this Minute was sent to him to which he has not thought proper to reply.

104. Mr. James Lister attorney here for Colonel Hector Munro having applied to us for payment of two Laaks of Rupees which he

Consn. [8] Sept. acquainted us you had ordered to be paid to the Colonel and nothing on this subject having been said in your Letters to us we applied to the Gentlemen of the Select Committee for any information they might have received.—They accordingly laid before us an Extract of your Letter to them on the Occasion and of one to you from Mr Spencer and Mr Lister has

delivered into us Copy of the Memorial Colonel Munro laid before you and Copy of a Letter from the Colonel to him.

105. From these papers it appears that Colonel Munro gave up his Claim to the Jaghire, granted him by the King, to the Nabob and that Meer Jaffier in Consideration of the Consn 8 Sept. Colonels relinquishing his title to the Jaghire promised to give him two Laaks of Rupees which promise was ratified to him by teeps for the same by Meer Jaffier's son and successor Nudjam ul Dowlah. In a few months after Colonel Munro had ceded his Jaghire to the Nabob,—The Company became possessed of the Dewannee and consequently of the Jaghire for which the Nabob had promised to give Colonel Munro two Laaks of Rupees as a Compensation for relinquishing his title thereto.

106. Hence it is evident that the Motive for Meer Jaffiers promise to Colonel Munro was a Compensation for the advantages the Colonel had given up to him. But as the Nabob Nujeir ul Dowlah was deprived of these advantages soon after they were ceded to him and the Company have been reaping those very advantages ever since we apprehend the Nabob cannot in Justice be deemed to pay the sum of two Laaks of Rupees,—From this motive we have declined making any application to his Excellency and as this Explanation may serve to place the matter in a point of View you have not yet considered it in.—We have therefore referred this Matter to your final Determination from a Conviction that as you have been pleased to express your Sense of Colonel Munro's Services that you will not permit him to feel an Injury merely from a Change of Government in your Favor.—

### *Supplement*

The Ballance due to the Company from the Society of Trade amounting to Current Rupees 137121—, and which is all that Remains to Compleat. The total amount of Duties on the first years account hath been paid in your Treasury.—At the second the society have paid Rupees 400000 and the Reason a greater proportion of the Duties on the second years account hath not been paid is owing to the difficulty they find in Collecting the very large outstanding Ballances due to them.

The Instruments you sent out to observe the transit of Venus with did not arrive in time to be of any Consn 24 July Service. Captain Du Gloss is the only person who hath made any observations on the Transit which agreeable to your orders are recorded on our Consultations and we have also sent you a Copy Consn. 27 June. of them a Number in this Packet.

In obedience to your orders we have enquired into the Conduct of Captain Griffin regarding the three Boxes that were shipt on Board the Admiral Watson without Consn. 3d. July your Licence.—He urges in his Defence that they were brought on Board without his privacy.—That He was ignorant of their Contents & that he did not know of such things being on Board untill a few hours before he left Plymouth when they were brought to him by the Company's Surveyors and as it is their Duty to report to you all Circumstances of this kind he was apprehensive a Letter from him might have been deemed impertinent rather than a proof of his Duty.

In conformity to your Commands we have ordered your General & Select Letters with the papers enclosed to be put into a small compact Box which for the sake of Distinction is superscribed the Company's packet—and we have particularly enjoined the Captain of the Ship in his sailing orders to forward this Box to you by the first opportunity after his arrival,—& this method shall always be observed in future.

Major Douglass Hill having for some time past laboured under a severe illness hath been at last advised by the Physicians to return to England as the only means to re-establish his health & in Consequence hath requested our permission to resign the Service and Return to Europe on board this Ship.

We have complied with his Request and at his particular desire granted him a sett of Bills on you for five hundred pounds.

Messrs. William Bride & William Wroughton whom you have been pleased to appoint Writers on this Establishment have in Obedience to your orders Executed the Covenants you sent out & We now return them in this packet.

As the President is determined to proceed to Europe this year and the Station of second devolved upon Mr Becher, He deems it his indispensable Duty to give the earliest Intelligence to you of his fixed resolution to return to Europe on one of the ships that will leave Bengall the latter End of the year 1770 or the beginning of 1771 and hath requested that the Letter which he addressed to us setting forth his Reasons for this Resolution may be sent home a Number in the Packet which we have accordingly complied with.

The Select Committee having adopted a plan of sending your Servants into several of the districts of Bengall to enquire into their state and Condition—laid the same before the Board in its secret Department, and we shall exert our utmost Endeavours to carry it into Execution.

We beg leave to refer you to the Consultation of the 4 September in the Secret Department for Information of the appointments that were made in Consequence of this Resolution and to the Proceedings of the Select Committee for the reasons of adopting this plan.

General Smith hath represented to us in a Letter entered in our Consultation the 25th Instant that not having yet remitted any part of his Fortune thro' the Cash of a foreign Nation he desired to make a tender of three Laaks of Rupees to be remitted through your Cash at the Rate of 2s. 3d. p Current Rupee and to be paid in England at three stated Periods allowing a year between each period and 4 p Cent Interest.

Your orders regarding Remittances are so peremptory that we were indispensably obliged to decline this offer,—the General out of a point of delicacy declined giving any opinion upon a proposal that he himself had made but at the same time considering it his Duty as a Member of the Administration to give his opinion hath entered a minute in the Consultation of that day.

Our President has laid before us Copy of his Letter to his Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte, which goes a number in this packett. He requests we will mention that his not having laid the same before us sooner was from Knowing applications of this kind made in the governments of Messrs. Dawson and Drake, which acquired every-desired Redress without further Reference; but your orders shall on any instance of this kind in future, be punctually attended to.—

We beg leave to notice that the evils complained of by our President are not yet removed; the Ships trading to the Gulph of Judda returned last season under the same embarrassments as before; and We earnestly recommend support through your Influence to annul a new and arbitrary system of commerce, which risks the property of the fair trader, precludes him from his just profits, and your provinces from that importation of specie which they would otherwise receive.

The President begs leave to make the following Reply to the 88th paragraph of the General Letter p Lioness. No one who is acquainted with his public and private character can need any formal Refutation of the charge contained in that paragraph, & he flatters himself the Court of Directors have in the course of his long Services acquired an opinion of him too well founded and supported to be shaken by the usual efforts of Malice. The Fact in a few words is this.—It is true that a Quantity of Cotton was commissioned from Bombay & the President himself had a Concern therein as well as several Gentlemen in Station which Concern he disposed of on coming

to the Government,—it is likewise true that a small Proportion of the whole was disposed of at the City by Mahomed Reza Cawn. This was no Secret Transaction but was as publickly known as any other in the common course of Trade—no unlawful means no abuse of Influence were employed—on the Contrary while the proprietors were themselves selling at [.....] at the Aurungs and at 19 & 20 at Calcutta. Mahomed Reza Cawn procured for them no more than 18 Suns. at the City a price even less advantageous than any of their Subsequent Sales if Interest & Charges are included. This is a fact Notorious and should be supported by incontestible proofs if Detraction was worthy of such Refutation from such Characters.

With Respect to the duty of 35 p Cent it is an assertion as void of Foundation as the author of it must be of common veracity & therefore Requires no further answer than an absolute denial such is the real state of the case and on this occasion the President cannot help feeling a very particular pleasure from the method by which the Court of Directors have communicated a Subject of private Intelligence so injurious to all concerned. On the whole he begs leave to Remark that had the Gentleman against whom this secret stab is aimed, had acted on principles that deserve such an attack, they would not have been so very Considerable Sufferers in their private Fortunes as they now are.

We have laden on Board this Ship sundry goods & Merchandize amounting to agreeable to the Invoice, and first Bill of Lading enclosed.

We have licensed by this Ship Diamonds and precious stones to the amount of 9117-10-0 as will more particularly appear by the Register.

The Ballance this day of your Cash is.....& of your Treasury.....

We are with Respect

Hon'ble Sirs

Your faithfull humble Servants

Harry Verelst/John Cartier/Brigadier  
General Smith / Claud Russell /  
Charles Floyer.

Fort William

the 25th Septemr. 1769.

*Postscript* :—We have the pleasure to inform you that since closing this Letter we have received advices from Fort St George dated the 5th of September acquainting us that your Ship the Duke of Grafton arrived with them the 3d. of that Month and left the Anson at the Island of Johanna.

The Gentlemen at Fort St George acquaint us also that they purposed dispatching her in a few days after the date of their Letter But she is not yet arrived with us

We are with Respect

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

Your faithfull humble Servants

Fort William  
the 3d October 1769

Harry Verelst / John Cartier / Richd  
Smith / Claud Russell / Charles Floyer

### 37

#### LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1769

*Treaty with Haidar Ali discussed—state of affairs in the south—majority opinion in favour of helping Shah Alam in his scheme of restoration—an attempt on the life of Munir ud Daula—a mutiny in Shuja ud Daulah's army quelled—Shuja asked the British not to insist on the dismissal of Mons Gentill—The King postponing the march to Delhi—the third brigade recalled from Allahabad—magazine retained to be brought later to Buxar—appointment of supervisors—unusual scarcity of rain referred to by Becher and Rumbold*

**T**O the Hon ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon ble Sirs,

In our Address by the Shrewsbury we inform'd you of the very critical and Dangerous Situation of the then state of your Affairs in the Carnatick and of the little probability of their being restor'd to a state of Tranquility under a Course of time Many Days however had not elapsed after that Ship's Departure when we receiv'd advice from the Gentlemen at Madrass, that they had Concluded a Peace with Hydre Ally, an event so very important to the Company, that we Lamented the being deprived of Communicating it to you by one of your own Ships, The last French Ship of that Season (Marquis de Ca ) being at that time Under dispatch from France upon which Mr John Sumner had taken his Passage, we determin'd to embrace that Opportunity of Conveying to you so necessary a piece of Intelligence and accordingly had the Honor to Address you a short Letter under Date 21st April last which we intrusted to the care of that Young Gentleman, But the Ship not being able to proceed on her intended

Voyage Mr. Sumner return'd the Letter, which now waits on you a number in this Packet.—

2. To a Copy of the Treaty which is enter'd upon the face of our proceedings we beg leave to refer You; Have only upon this Occasion to express our Apprehensions that  
 21st April           Hydre Ally, from the very extraordinary instance of Success he met with in the latter part of the late War will not Scruple to infringe the Treaty, whenever he may deem it Compatable (*sic*) with his Interests; after the final Conclusion thereof we are inform'd he proceeded by slow Marches to his own Country & that the Prisoners & Places taken on both sides were restor'd. This

11 August           was no Sooner Accomplished than we find Hydre requesting of the Madrass Presidency to Assist him with a Battalion of Sepoys & two Guns, to reduce some places which Mhadevarow had taken from him, & still maintain'd possession of; which request was Accompanied with a proposal of their entering into an Alliance with him & Janojee against that Marattoe Chief—The reply to so sudden a request & so extraordinary a proposal was, that their sending a Force against any of the places possessed by Mhadevarow would be deem'd a Declaration of War, that they had no Quarrel with him & therefore such a measure would on their part be unwarrantable and with respect to the propos'd Alliance they have evaded giving any direct Answer, by Acquainting him that in a matter of such importance, it would be necessary to Consult with your Other Presidencies, as the United Efforts of the whole must be Exerted on such an Occasion:—

3. We also learn that Nizam Ally is very Solicitous in engaging the Madrass Administration to enter into an Alliance with him against Mhadeverow, and that Ibrahim Beg  
 11th August           who is intrusted with the Negotiation in behalf of Nizam Ally is expected at Massulapatam to settle with your Chief there, all matters relative thereto. To this measure they seem Averse; & assure us of their intention, should a Categorical Answer to the proposals be requir'd of availing themselves of the saving Clause in their Treaty with the Subah. And declaring that the Situation of their Affairs will not Admit of engaging in any distant Operations.

4. Their Attention since the Conclusion of the Peace seems employ'd in forming & Arranging their Military Establishments, in reducing their Expences & in procuring an Investment for this Season; they have Express'd to us their Apprehensions of falling Considerably short of the Number of recruits you propos'd sending to them this Season; as on the Arrival of all the China Ships, except the Neptune they had only receiv'd Seven hundred & forty five.

Exclusive of those by the Norfolk, whom they have sent round to us, as soon as they can ascertain the Number destined for St George they propose to Transmit us an exact state of their European Force That we may mutually Consult your common Interest & Security & that each presidency may be supplied as the Exigency of the one & the ability of the other, may render practicable & necessary.

5 When the President was at Boleah, he Transmitted to us translates of a Letter he had from the King & of sundry Persian Papers which accompanied it—His Majesty there  
 19 May in signifies his Determin'd resolution of Marching to Delhi with the Troops of his Vizir, to possess himself of the Throne & Dominions of his Ancestors, And earnestly called upon us for the performance of a promise said to have been made to him by your Late President Lord Clive, of assisting him with two Battalions of Seapoys & some field pieces, whenever he should think proper to March towards his Capital An Expedition of this Nature set on foot & prosecuted by his own Subjects was a Circumstance greatly to be wished, as we should be thereby freed from a connection which we have been obliged to Maintain to the very Apparent Detriment of these Provinces and which every Day became more Alarming by Draining them of their Current Species which was Remitted for the Support of so large a part of our Army as was station'd to Allahabad As a Separation at all hazards was become necessary we were of opinion it was more eligible in point of Appearances & more Consistent with your wishes that the King should proceed after the mode intended for his restoration and quit Allahabad then (*sic*) that we should forsake him their (*sic*), which must have been the case sooner or later from real necessity, had not this enterprize been projected, in time to save your Credit in the Empire But at the same time it gave us great Concern to find his Majesty strongly Soliciting Our Assistance of Troops & Cannon on this distant enterprize & that he founded his claim upon a promise which had been made him by Lord Clive

6 Upon the whole however, we could not but deem his intended expedition as Extremely favourable to our deliberations at that time, on the recall of your forces from Allahabad, but the Consideration of your positive prohibition of employing any part of your Forces on such an expedition, And how far an implicit Obedience to, or Deviation from your Commands might affect your Honor or the future welfare of your Valuable Possession created  
 19th May a Debate on the Subject which made it necessary for the Numbers of our Board to record their Separate Sentiments, And the Majority being of Opinion that his Majestys request of two Battalion of Sepoys as a Safeguard to his



Person should be complied with, as well to prevent his encountering fresh Difficulties in his projected purpose as to Convince him that the English mean religiously to perform (*sic*) every engagement that they have enter'd into with their Allies by Treaty or by Solemn Promise. The same was Communicated to his Majesty: And we did not fail to remind him of this fresh & very signal proof of your inviolable Attachment to his honor & Dignity.—

7. We were Apprehensive our own Occasions would not admit of sparing any Field Pieces, but we refer'd this matter to the Opinion of General Smith to whom we granted permission, if he judged that four of the smallest Calibre could be conveniently spar'd from the Magazine at Allahabad, to attach two to each of the Battalions of Sepoys destined to attend his Majesty, with a suitable number of well train'd Lascars, & to appoint a Subaltern officer of Artillery to Command them.

8. Considering the Different dispositions of the King & his Vizir we did not think it unlikely that some incident or other might impede their intended departure from Illahabad but as we could not but suppose them at that time seriously determin'd on the enterprize, from the solemn engagements they had enter'd into we thought it a favourable opportunity for removing all your Troops from Allahabad except the two Battalions destin'd to attend his Majesty, and a Battalion of Sepoys to Garrison the Fort at Allahabad, untill the Magazine of stores could be Transported to some other Convenient Post within the Bounderies of your own possession.

9. This Majesty requested of General Smith a supply of small arms for the use of the two supernumery (*sic*) Battalions of Sepoys which were entertain'd & paid by him & which  
 8th June he had resolv'd should proceed with him on his Expedition. The General not deeming himself Authoriz'd to Comply with his Majesty's request made it known to us, when we reflected that he had maintain'd these Battalions at a Considerable expence for our common use, which had proved a good nursery for recruiting your Army; and when we consider'd that he had long flatter'd himself with very sanguine hopes of our giving him ample Assistance in his long favorite project of Marching to Delhi, we did not hesitate to empower General Smith to grant the King a Supply of six hundred stands of good English Arms, provided the expedition should actually take place.—

10. When every thing as we had reason to suppose, was in great forwardness for Undertaking this enterprize and a short day  
 8th June even fixed for his Majesty's departure from Allahabad; we receiv'd intelligence that the Nabob Munerah-Ul-Dowlah on his return from the Royal Durbar

& within the Precincts of the Palace was Accosted by some of his Majesty's Guards who in a Tumultuous manner desir'd they might receive the same pay as was formerly granted to them, and demanded some arrears, On the Nabobs making an unsatisfactory reply one of the Inferior Officers drew his Sword and attempted to destroy him, which must inevitably have happen'd but that a faithfull Coffry in the Nabob's Service exposed his own life, to save that of his Master, His other Attendants attempted to oppose the Mutineers and this interposition gave Munerah ul Dowlah an opportunity to escape unhurt into the Royal Appartment But Six of his train were killed, or died of their Wounds & as many more were dangerously Hurt

11 His Majesty upon the Commencement of this Tray sent for General Smith, who, hearing of some disturbance had previously set out with a small chosen Body of Troops to the King's Assistance but before he arrived the Mutineers had dispers'd —

12 When this matter was enquir'd into, it appear'd that those Men had not any Arrears due to them, & Munerah ul Dowlah publickly declar'd that it was only a pretence, for he was persuaded there was a design form'd to Murder him, that the plan was laid by Men of rank, & those were only the Instruments, upon the whole there seems to be some ground for such an assertion & it is the more probable as it is well known that some of the Omrahs & other servants of the King bear much ill will to the Nabob

The General, at the Kings request left Five hundred Sepoys to Guard the Palace and conducted Munerah Ul Dowlah in safety to his own House

13 Munerah Ul Dowlah shortly after requested permission to retire from Court The King who in exterior appearance treated him, with the utmost Confidence declared he  
20th June would not dismiss him from his service, And even Sujah Ul Dowlah his inveterate Enemy expressed his wishes that he might be prevail'd upon to Continue in his Office The Old Man pleaded Age & Inability for Public Business, And his Majesty finding him determin'd to withdraw dismiss'd him in the most gracious Manner He now resides at Patna, and has signified his intention of spending the rest of his Days, under your Protection & Government

14 An event as singular in its nature, & might have proved more Serious in its Consequences happen'd  
10th June some few days after the attempt made on the Life of Munerah Ul Dowlah—

The three best Battalions of sepoy in the service of the Nabob

Sujah-ul-Dowlah took up Arms in a Mutinous manner against their Prince, on Account of three Months Pay being due to them, the Vizir who piqued himself much on the regularity & decipline which he had established amongst his Troops, was mortified, at this event however was determin'd to make a severe example of the Offenders; But Apprehending this defection might become more general he plac'd his Chief Dependance on your Battallion Commanded by Capt. Harper which he called to his assistance the Vizir very briskly Attacked those three Battalions & by his spirited Conduct on that Occasion soon dispersed them, most of them who took to flight were persued & put to Death by his Cavalry & others return'd Quietly to their Cantonmts. thus the Mutiny was Quelled & we do not hear that any further Consequences have Arisen from it.

20th June  
15. An immediate express was dispatch'd by Capt. Harper to General Smith with advice of this Mutiny, who wisely embraced so favourable an opportunity to shew the Vizir the Sincerity of our Attachment and readiness of our support. The General immediately dispatch'd two Battalions of Sepoys to his Aid, giving them orders to make forced Marches & he at the same time wrote to the Vizir, that on the first requisition the whole English Army should march to his Assistance—Altho', the Mutiny was quell'd before the arrival of your Troops from Ahalabad (*sic*) yet the Vizir was highly pleas'd with these instances of our Attachment.

16. We regard this Mutiny amongst the Nabobs Troops, as a Circumstance very favourable to the Preservation of the general Tranquility not only from its having Occasion'd an immediate & Considerable reduction of his Military Force but because we apprehend that this Mutiny will greatly lessen that Confidence which he entertain'd of his Military strength—On the other hand his Troops look with extreme Jealousy on the superior Confidence which the Nabob on this Occasion Manifested on Capt. Harper's Battalion; And to increase this Jealousy, was one of the prevailing Motives with the General for marching the detachment from Allahabad to the Nabobs assistance—We also persuade ourselves that the Apparent allacrity with which your forces assisted him on this Occasion, will be a convincing proof to his Excellency of our sincere intentions to adhere religiously to the Treaty which subsists between us—The Vizir in his Letter to the General expressed great satisfaction at the steady & Soldier-like Conduct of Capt. Harper during the late Mutiny, & we think such Gallant behaviour on so Critical an Occasion, will deserve our Commendation, and we have great reason to be satisfy'd with Capt. Harpers Conduct—We beg

leave to recommend him as an Officer worthy of your favour—The timely & well judged Assistance granted by General Smith to the Vizier, in the late Mutiny & his steady & prudent conduct on the sudden resolution of His Majesty to March to Delhi, are circumstances which have met with our entire approbation & here we cannot omit to inform you of an Offer made by the General to our President at a time when your Affairs on the Coast wore a very unfavourable aspect To proceed, to Madras in whatever station his services might be render'd usefull & even to act as a Volunteer under the Commander of your Forces on that Establishment

17 When the deputation was up at Allahabad they even desir'd to endeavour by the mildest representations to prevail on the Vizier to remove from his Court & Councils such Frenchmen as had settled in his Dominions particularly Monsr Gentill who we had every reason to imagine stood high in his favour—On the representation made by those Gentlemen they were assur'd by his Excellency, that he would dismiss this Frenchman in Four Months We were very sensible that making this request even at that Juncture was a point of much delicacy, but as the Vizier had not proform'd (*sic*) his engagement in this particular how much more delicacy must be requir'd in attempting to break a Connection which we could easily conceive must be attended with many more difficulties, at a time when his Majesty & the Vizier were on the Eve of embarking on a distant & important Enterprize, than whilst his Excellency confin'd his Ambition to the Limits of his own Province & enjoy'd only the Nominal Honors of the Vizierut But notwithstanding the much alter'd Situation of Affairs had thus greatly increas'd the difficulty of Bringing him to a Compliance We thought it necessary a second attempt should be made towards it before he quitted Allahabad, and General Smith was accordingly desir'd to resume the Subject at a Convenient opportunity

18 In the mean time the Genreal had directed Capt Harper to take occasion delicately to remind his Excellency of his promise—He did so, & the Vizirs reply, which he desir'd might be communicated to the General, was, that as he had made such a Promise to the English Chiefs, he would comply, if they insisted upon the performance of it, but he also desir'd him to represent that at a time when the Hand of adversity was upon him, when all those whom he had Cloth'd & fed forsook him when he was abandon'd by his own Countrymen and by those of the same religion This Man who was a Stranger, of a different religion & different Nation forsook him not but partook of his Misfortunes, he added what a reflection will it then be upon me if I am oblig'd to Chase this Man

from my Dominions—Assure the English Chiefs that I will be responsible that he never shall do any thing to their prejudice, the moment I discover such intention, he loses my Friendship. In the mean time I will consider it as a mark of theirs, if they will not urge Me the performance of my promise concerning him. Thus rests this matter, and after such reasons being urged we are apprehensive it would not be consistent with sound Policy, to urge our suit further at present.

19. We must here add that just before General Smiths departure, upon a Vague rumor at Allahabad of an approaching War with France, the Vizir of himself inform'd Capt. Harper that should a War ensue betwixt the two Nations he should then think himself bound to remove Monsr. Gentill from his Dominions as it would be unbecoming in him to entertain any man who was the Enemy of our Nation—But this he desir'd might not be communicated by Capt. Harper as he was determin'd to take this measure without any requisition on our part that he himself might have the merit of the Act.

20. We receiv'd advice in April last that most of the Arms and stores belonging to Sujah-ul-Dowlah which had been last Year stopped by your Chokeys and Convey'd to  
9th May Patna were destroy'd by a Fire which broke out in that City—When we consider'd that on the earnest Sollicitations of the Nabob to obtain their release we empower'd the late deputation to deliver them up we judg'd it necessary to  
13th May give him timely Information of the Accident which had befallen them in order to prevent any misunderstanding in Future on this Subject.

21. His Excellency has not fail'd to by remind us of the engagement enter'd into by Lord Clive, to evacuate the Fort of Chunar whenever your Troops shall be withdrawn from Allahabad, which deeming now effected he requests that orders might be sent thither in consequence. —We have repeated our Assurance to him, that so soon as all your Troops shall be recall'd we will most readily comply with that Article of the Treaty.

22. When General Smith communicated to his Majesty our resolutions on the subject of his intended March to Delhi, he immediately Summon'd the Vizier to his presence, many Conferences were held on the occasion wherein he strongly urged to his royal Master the necessity of Commencing his March without delay. But his Majesty who a few weeks before this Period, was so impatient to quit Allahabad

now suddenly resolved to defer the prosecution of his favourite Scheme until the Rainy Months be past.

23. How far the Extraordinary Events which have happen'd since his Majesty first projected an expedition so very flattering to his hopes, & of which he had entertain'd such sanguine expectations, such as the attempt made on the Life of his favorite Minister Munerah-ul-Dowlah & his retirement from Court who had ever been averse to the Expedition, because he would thereby be depriv'd of all his Authority over the Royal House & secondly, the Mutiny of those very troops with whom the King was to intrust his Person & future Honors; how far we say these Considerations may have operated in this late resolves we cannot pretend to determine—Certain however we are, that some secret distrust has occasion'd this [choice?] of Measures so repugnant, to the manifest [wish?] of the King & to the Power & Ambitious Views of the Vizier—But the Season is now approaching when this matter will come to light.

24. The Council having obtain'd Certain information that the French at Chandernagore instead of making a Drain round the town [in order?] to carry off the Stagnated Water's which they alledged to the Government had greatly contributed to the unhealthiness of their settlement were earnestly employ'd in cutting a wide Ditch & raising of Earth after the manner of a Fortification, they came to a resolution of having the same minutely Surveyed by the Chief Engineer, & if so gross an infraction of the Treaty subsisting between our two Nations had been attempted, of insisting on the demolition thereof—The Chief Engineer's Report Confirming in the strongest manner that ye Work so Constructed might be easily converted into a line of defence. The Council proceeded to take the Necessary measures for effectually destroying the intention of this Work The Boards Conduct on this Occasion stands fully Recorded upon the Face of their proceedings in the Secret Department—From this Circumstance together with a strong report of their constructing Gun Carriages altho' by the Treaty they are forbid to have any Cannon in Bengall, & their Erecting Thach'd Sheds in the old Fort at Chandernagore which were s[.....] to be intended as in Fact they were very proper for the Accommodation of Troops—We coul'd not but regard the Whole of their Conduct as bearing a Tendency to disturb the Tranquility at present subsisting between the two Crowns—And as their preparations indicated the strongest suspicion that they expected a Considerable Body of Forces in India—So we deem'd it a Duty incumbent upon us to take early Measures for defeating any Hostile intentions they might entertain against these Provinces. Such extraordinary Military preparations Carried on in time of Profound Peace by a Company

who are restrain'd by the late Treaty from all other interests or concerns in Bengall than those of mere Commerce, could not fail to Alarm us, and make us even apprehensive they were meditating some grand & important enterprize in this Quarter.

25. These our suspicions receiv'd additional Strength from the Intelligence brought by Capt. Larkins Commander of the *Lioness* that some French Ships of War with Troops on Board had sailed from the Cape of Good Hope [9th?] June a few Days before his arrival there, As the Council thought it proper to convince the French at Chandernagore that all opposition to their measures for destroying the intention of the Work Carrying on there, would be fruitless; Rightly Judging that such Conduct would have its due weight, We at the Boards request order'd down to the Presidency the Division of the first brigade from Monghyr—And we also resolv'd that the second Brigade should proceed to the new Cantonments at Burrumpore to be nearer at hand to assist the Presidency, in case the Future exigency of Affairs might require their being put in motion.

26. The above Intelligence of Capt. Larkins is confirm'd by our advices from Madrass from whence we learn also that the French are intent on fortifying Pondichery—That they expect the Indian a Ship piered for Sixtyfour Guns, That two of their Coast & Bay Ships & two of the Kings Frigates were arrived there from the Island of Mauritius; one of which Sail'd again in a very few days but her Destination was kept quite secret. And that the other called *La Digue* after staying some Days at Madrass on a Trading Voyage came down to Bengal & she has since sail'd for Pegu; These Circumstances have induc'd the Gentlemen at Madrass to Dispatch as many of your China Ships as possible together and to direct the Commander to keep Company until they are through the Streights of Malacca, & to avoid speaking with any Vessels they may meet with.

27. We come next to inform you of the safe return of Colonel Peach's Detachment of Europeans from the Decan. The Presidency at Madrass had at our recommendation given orders for the Bengal Seapoys to proceed hither by Land but some of the Zemindares of the Chicacole Circar being unwilling to Submit to your authority they have thought proper to detain those Troops in order to enable Mr. Cotsford your Resident at Gangam to reduce them to Obedience—We could have wish'd the situation of your Affairs in that Province had Admitted of the immediate return of your Seapoys as a long absence from their Brigade we fear will occasion a Relaxation in their Discipline and a late reduction of our forces

renders their speedy return hither a Circumstance greatly to be wished.

28 This reduction consists in the reform we have lately caus'd to be made of three Purgunnah Battalions & of the Additional Battalion & of Brigade Scapoys—Your regular  
18th August Troops now within the Provinces will from the different Cantonments being made be enabled to assist the Resident at the Durbar & Chief at Patna, with Scapoys for the service of those Cities without injury to their discipline as they are not to be detach'd on any service of the Collection & the reform of the Brigade Battalion will Recruit the late Detachment from the Decan after its arrival here

29 It is with the Utmost Satisfaction we acquaint you that your repeated orders & our earnest wishes for the Recall of your Troops from Allahabad are at length happily  
9th & 15th May effected—To this we can also add that as far as  
20th June, 8th July we can at present foresee, there is a fair Prospect  
25th Sept of a Continuance of that Tranquility we have long enjoy'd—This happy Situation of Affairs Join'd to some late resolutions of the King & Vizier enabled us with more Felicity to effect this measure so strongly recommended by you & the Troops being now return'd within the Limits of your own Possessions, so conscious are we of your true Interest & so determin'd to persue it that nothing but the obligations to support our National Faith or to provide for the actual Safety of these Provinces shall induce us to march our Troops beyond the Carumnassa

30 When we revert to the many reasons we have repeatedly Urged in Vindication of our not Carrying into immediate execution the very positive orders you were pleas'd to send us for the recall of your Troops within the Provinces we are led to flatter ourselves we shall stand fully acquitted from all imputations of having willfully or wantonly eluded them—Sensible of the great advantages which would have result'd to you, had the situation of your affairs admitted of an earlier return of your Forces, it has even been an object we have devoutly wish'd to Effect—But to have Effect'd it in an earlier period we will venture to pronounce might have brought on us many evils, which by the measures we have persued, we flatter ourselves have been prevented

31 Full well do we Conceive the great propriety of your Commands for survey the Boundaries of the Bahar Province in order to establish a Magazine of stores upon the  
11th Novr Frontiers of your Possessions, Buxar we believe may be deem'd the most conveniently situated for this purpose, &



we shall embrace the earliest opportunity to employ proper Persons on this Service—Until it is effected we propose to continue the present Magazine at Allahabad under the charge of a Field Officer who is left in the Command of that Fortress, with a Battalion of Seapoys.

32. We have before advis'd you that the Second & third Brigades had been form'd Agreeable to the Establishment you were pleas'd to Direct—The first Brigade is now forming in like manner but from the casualties of the past Year, we fear your Army will be far short of the Number requir'd for its Completion unless we receive [.....] from your Presidency at Madras exclusive of the recruits you have been pleas'd to destine this Season for Bengall But for your further information we have the Honor to transmit a General return of your Army on this Establishment a number in the Packet.

33. On the Arrival of the third Brigade at Bankipore We came to a resolution of stationing all your Forces on this Establishment Your Garison of new Fort William is Compos'd of one Battalion of Europeans a Company of Artillery and three Battalions of Brigade Seapoys—The remainder of which Brigade now the first is order'd to Monghyr. The second Brigade Canton'd at Burrumpore, & the third at Bankipore & the three Brigades are to relieve each other in rotation at fixed periods Twice a Year so as to make their Duty as equal as possible.

34. At the Annual Punah held on the fourth May last there appear'd to have been receiv'd on Account Collections in the Bengal Province Sicca Rupees 1,52,89,540 & 9th May for Ballance & Customary Nazzarannes 2,29,315-13-1 The Ballance due from last Years Settlement was Sicca Rupees 475511-2-6 This Sum includes the deduction of 1,20,000 on Account of the Salt Lands which 8th July being entirely given up can no longer appear as a Ballance and is therefore put under the Head of Abatements so that the real Ballance of last Year was in fact only Rs. 355511-2-6-1 as will appear by the Letter Address'd to us from the President & Resident at the Durbar of which the latter has given us hopes that a part may be recover'd.

35. We beg leave to assure you that our utmost attention is and shall be given to your Commands under Date 11th November last P Ship Lioness relative to the Revenues & 25th Sepr. Country Government—By the Account Transmitted to us from the City, of the Collection which have been made for Ten years past by the Rajahs of Pachut & Tipperah to which is

Subjoin'd Similar Account of the Province of Bistenapore it appears that the Revenues of these three districts may almost be deem'd new acquisitions to the Company as little or nothing in comparison to the Annual Settlements was Receiv'd before they were vested with the Charge of those Collections The Bundabusts for the three last Years greatly exceed any made in former Periods of time, & no Ballances appear due to the Nizamut at the adjustments of the Annual Accounts

36 The Reason assign'd by Mahomed Reza Cawn for Collecting the Revenues of Syllet in Cowries, is that this District being a Boundery of the Kingdom, & Contiguous to the Hills & an Enemies Country is only inhabited by the Poorer sort of People who without Effects or Property Cultivate their Grounds which produce Grain merely for their subsistance and for procuring the necessaries of Life, this Grain they sell for Cowries, & Consequently are oblig'd to pay their Rents in them —

25th Sept

Nothing of considerable Value is Produc'd in this Country, nor do any Merchants or People of Property reside here, or Maintain any Commerce with the Inhabitants so as to cause a Circulation either of Gold or Silver, from its being first inhabited to the present time, the Commercial Transactions amongst the Natives themselves have been carried on in Cowries, & notwithstanding measures were formerly Attempted to annul this custom & in Lieu thereof to establish a Gold & Silver Currency they were of no Effect, The Courts of Judicature at Dacca are on the same footing as others in different parts of the Country, & appeals are frequently made to the Nabob & Resident at the Durbar, when proper enquiries are set on foot, and the Complainant obtains redress, if on examination of the Cause, it should be prov'd he merits it —

11th Novr  
25th Sept

Your Pleasure has been signified to Mahomed Reza Cawn respecting the Allowance he solicited for his Naib which will be duely complied with —

37 To him have also been communicated your sentiments concerning the Ballance of Dinagepoor, Houghly & Purnhea, & for the present we take the Liberty of Referring you to his Letter on the Subject which is enter'd upon the Face of our Proceedings

25th Sept

38 The President & Resident at the Durbar having jointly & seperatly represented to us in the most pathetic manner the declining state of these Provinces which has proceeded from the many evil Practices commuted by the

8th July

Officers of the Government in the Collection of the Revenues we could not in Justice to you our Hon'ble Employers, & to our reputations any longer defer making enquiries into a matter which so very essentially concern[s?] your Interest. And exerting our

11th Augst.

endeavours to trace and assign the true causes of our Declining Situation—And having deliberated thereon with the utmost circumspection, we were unanimously of opinion that the Original Sources of the Evils Complain'd of have proceeded from the following imperfections in the formation & Conduct of the System hitherto Persued.—

39. The Want of sufficient Checks on the instruments of Government the Deligation of a Trust & Authority to one or to a few which require the Abilities and Integrity of many to execute—The ignorance of the real produce & Capacity of the Country in which we are necessarily kept by a set of Men who first Deceive us from Interest and afterwards continue the deception through fear of Punishment and necessary regard to their own safety—The numerous train of underlings & Dependants whom the Collectors entertain & who must all be satisfied from the spoils of the Industrious Ryott—The Venality which forms part of the Genius of the Collectors, & which is known to be openly exercised or Tacitly allow'd by Government without drawing any shame or discredit on the Guilty; or being thought any peculiar hardship on the injur'd—The Collusion of the Collector with the Zemindaar whom the Collector employs as a Tool to screen his Mal Practices or admits an Associate in his fraudulent Gains—

40. The oppression to which the Ryott is Subject from the Multitude of Gomastahs & their dependants, and lastly whilst the Company are in reality the Principals in Revenue of this Country & the most interested in good Conduct of its Government, every Bar should be removed that tends to preclude them from the Knowledge of its real state & present degree of Power without controle, of Knowledge without Participation and of Influence without any Effectual Counteraction, is too important & Replete with Consequences to be vested in any three Ministers or rather one single Man, who, allowing him the Clearest Preference for Integrity, Ability, & Attachment amongst his Countrymen, cannot be suppos'd superior to Temptation and at least ought not to be trusted so extensively & Independantly as has been necessarily the Consequence of the present system—On these Points our Deliberations were grounded & finding ourselves Encourag'd by your Commands to us of the 11th Novr. last

16th Augst.

& also those to your Council in Para. [...] of your Letter P Lioness to attempt a Change of Measures, where it evidently tends to your advantage we form'd a Plan for the Full investigation of all Abuces (*sic*) committed in your

Revenues by the means of some of your Junior Servants to be employ'd under the Orders of the Resident at the Durbar. We had the satisfaction to find our Plan Unanimously Approv'd by the Council to whose Consideration it was refer'd, & they have in consequence appointed such of your Servants on this service as can at present be spar'd from the Presidency.—

41. We have treated on this important Subject in the most ample and Explicit manner we were able, in our Proceedings of the 16th Ultimo to which we beg leave to Refer you, and to request your Particular Attention—Sensible that the new measures propos'd to be Adopted would tend greatly to your advantage, & to the welfare of this Country if due attention is paid to the execution of them we earnestly hope & wish, they may meet with the Sanction of your Approbation.—

42. The Letter of Instructions of the guidance of the future Supravisors which is enter'd upon our Proceedings was form'd & laid before us by our President—The Clearness & Precision with which it has been drawn, Denote the Knowledge he has acquir'd of the Customs & manners of the Natives of Hindostan, & of the mode of Country Government and we are happy to give this Publick Token of our Unanimous Approbation of it.—

16th Augst.

43. Myrtuzza Kouly Chan who Rented the Series-Kotombo<sup>1</sup> Country in the Province of Bahár having been very backward in the payment of his Rents was called down to Patna where his Accounts were examin'd & after every reasonable deduction was allow'd him he remain'd indebted to the Nizamut about fifty Thousand Rupees—Notwithstanding he was kept in Confinement & every other method has been used except Corporal Punishment, to Compell him to pay his Ballance, he Obstinateley persists in his Refusal to comply with the Just Demand of Government.—

20th June

44. Whenever any just Payment of the Revenues is Obstinateley withheld as seems to be the case in the above mention'd instance of the Refractory Conduct of Myrtuzza Kouli Chan, we entirely concur with you in Opinion that some exemplary Punishment should be inflicted on the Offenders—We have therefore directed that Person to be deliver'd over to Sitabroy for his Examination and that he do proceed therein Conformably to the Custom of the Country Government in such cases establish'd—And in the mean time Mr. Rumbold has our order to do all in his Power, to Recover from that Renter the Debt due from him—

20th June

45. The Sum hitherto Collected from the Lands taken from the Goorka Raja<sup>2</sup> amounts only to Sunnaut Rupèes 20,400 this is far short of the expectations given us by Mr.

11th Augt. Rumbold who assures us it has proceeded from the Ryotts having neglected to Cultivate their Grounds from the interruption they met with from the People Residing near the Hills who continually made Incursions & Destroy'd whatever they could meet with—He also adds that the Country is so Unhealthy that our Sepoys could not remain in it; for the Necessary protection of the Ryotts during the Rainy Season.—

46. It is with much Concern we perceive from the representations of Messrs. Becher & Rumbold that the Provinces of Bengal & Bahar will fall short this Season of their Revenues on Account of the very unusual Scarcity of Rain.—

11th August  
25th Sept.

47. The President having come to a resolution of embarking for Europe on the Lioness the next Ship for dispatch this Season he has requested that this his intention may be signified to you by the Present Conveyance.—

48. In our advice by the Valentine we inform you of General Smiths intentions to resign his Command & that at our requisition he Postpon'd his departure that Season in order to proceed on the Deputation—Soon after the Negotiations with the Vizier were Concluded your affairs on the Coast took a very unfortunate Turn & the Presidents Letters to the General on this Subject induc'd him to suspen'd his resolutions from the great Probability (*sic*) that his service might be required to assist your Affairs in the Decan—Peace being made there & having here a fine Prospect of Tranquility he has requested of us to inform you that he Proposes to return to his Native Country by one of your early Ships of this Season.—

49. We have the Honor to transmit to you by this Conveyance the Broken set of our Proceedings since the Dispatch of the Shrewsbury together with sundry other Papers as P list of Packet. And to subscribe ourselves with the Utmost Respect—

Honble Sirs,  
Your Faithfull & most Obdt.  
Humble Servants.

H. Verelst/J. Cartier/R. Smith/  
J. Alexander/C. Floyer.

Fort William  
the 30th Sept. 1769

## LETTER DATED 23 NOVEMBER 1769

*Nominations to vacant seats in Council—prospect of universal distress for want of grain—a stock to be laid for the army—a plea for proportional abatement of revenue—Danish factory pleading for privileges enjoyed by the French and the Dutch—Reza Khan informed*

**T**O the Hon ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon ble Sirs,

The last letter we had the honor to write to you was dated the 25 of September to which was added a Postscript under date the 3d of October & transmitted to you by the Ankerwyke—which Ship we have had the Pleasure to be informed got clear of the River before the End of that month—

Since that time two more of your Ships the Duke of Grafton & Anson have safely arrived with us and by them we have been honored with your Commands under date the 17 of March 1769 To which we shall particularly reply when we give you a General Detail of your Service under the established Heads,—at present we shall confine Ourselves to a Relation of the few material Occurrences since our last advices

This Letter is conveyed to you in Duplicate by the Ships Hampshire & Lioness—The Royal Charlotte is taking in her loading & we hope will follow them in a short time

The Gentlemen at Fort St George have informed us they hope to have 180 Tons of Bale Goods ready the beginning of January, & requested a Ship may be sent to them by that time—We have accordingly destined the Britannia to carry half a Cargo & shall dispatch her in time to arrive on the Coast about that period

You will observe that two Seats in Council have been vacant since the departure of Messrs Sykes and Charlton—The Reason of our not immediately filling up these Vacancies we have before informed you, was the prospect of soon receiving advices from you and the probability of some Directions on this point—But as you have been entirely Silent in this Subject we have appointed Messrs Reed and Hare the two Gentlemen next in Succession to fill up the Vacant Seats and as the Governour, General Smith, and Mr Rumbold

have expressed their intentions of Embarking for England on the Ships that are now under dispatch we have nominated Messrs Jekyll, Lane & Barwell—to succeed to Seats in Council, the three next in standing on the List.

In the 95th Paragraph of our Letter under date the 2d. of February 1769 we informed you that we had taken the Resolution to restrict the Second in Council to the Presidency untill your pleasure should be known and our Reasons for this Measure were particularly assigned in Consultation the 28th December 1768.

On the departure of the Governour Mr Becher would consequently become second in Council & that Gentleman being desirous to know the opinion of the Board whether on  
 Cons. 23d Octr. Mr Verelst's departure he was to remain in his present station of Resident at the Durbar or repair to the Presidency this subject was again debated And on a Declaration of Mr Bechers contained in his minute entered on Consultation the 23d of October that his Intentions are to proceed to Europe next year and on no terms (except at the Request of the Board) to accept the Government. It was agreed by the majority of the Board that he should remain in his present Station.—

It is with great Concern Gentlemen we are to inform you that we have a most melancholy prospect before our Eyes of universal distress for want of grain owing to an uncommon Drought that has prevailed over every part of the Country—In so much that the oldest Inhabitants never remember to have known any thing like it & as to threaten a Famine.

As there is the greatest probability that this distress will encrease and a certainty that it cannot be alleviated for six Months to come we have ordered a stock of Grain sufficient to serve our Army for that period to be laid up in proper store houses & we have taken and shall pursue every measure in our power to relieve the miserable Situation the poor Inhabitants must be involved in from this dreadfull Calamity.—But we cannot flatter ourselves that all our Endeavours will prevent very fatal Effects being felt or that Human means can check its baneful Influence.

The Consequences of so General a Calamity can not be confined to Individuals,—though they may most severely feel them.—The Publick must suffer likewise, & we have too much reason to apprehend, it will occasion a very considerable Diminution (*sic*) in your Revenue to what amount we cannot at present form a Judgement.—But we deem it our indispensable Duty to give you this early Information in hopes that by being prepared for such an Account you may be the better able to guard against its Effects.—

and We would take the Liberty to suggest whether a Considerable Diminution in your Revenue from so unforeseen and unavoidable a Cause may not be a just plea for a proportional abatement to be made from the Demands of Government, as well as that of your being dispossessed of any part of your Territorial acquisitions and Revenues by any foreign Power

The Chief of the Danish Factory hath remitted to us a memorial which We have the honor to Enclose as well as a Copy of our Answer representing that as the present Charter is nearly expired and there is Reason to believe that the old or future Company will endeavour to extend their trade in Bengall, provided they are properly encouraged by being put in possession of the same Priviledges and advantages as are enjoyed by the other (French and Dutch) European Nations—he has applied to Mahomed Reza Cawn to allow him to establish agents in those places in which the French and Dutch have fixed Residents and to suffer his Dustuck to pass in the same manner as theirs do,—and requesting that we would support this application to the Nabob—As you have strictly enjoined us on all Occasions to avoid shewing any influence over the Country Government we declined publicly interfering in this application But on maturely weighing these material Considerations—a Country almost exhausted of its specie Trade in a general decline The Necessity of encouraging an Importation of Bullion and reviving Commerce against the inconveniences that might arise by granting this indulgence, We thought the former greatly overbalanced the latter and therefore privately intimated to Mahomed Reza Cawn that we should have no objections to Sunnads being granted them for a limited time by which reservation if you should disapprove of this Indulgence being granted them we can have then withdrawn without appearing in the transaction But we would beg leave to Submit to your Consideration the great Distress of the Country for want of specie the general decline of Trade & how far good policy will warrant the Danes being granted their Request,—They are a Nation nearly allied and connected with our own, they are not in a situation to be feared as Rivals & if they had the same priviledges the French and Dutch enjoy they would import a larger quantity of Bullion which is an Object worthy your attention & ought to be encouraged as much as possible

We have the honour to enclose the Accounts you were pleased to Direct on your Letter of the 20 November 1767 to be annually transmitted to you

General Smith has resigned your Service and takes his passage on board the Hampshire



The great merit of the General in Disciplining your army and in the uremitting (*sic*) attention he hath paid to the Duties of the important station of Commander in Chief as well as a Member of this Administration hath frequently been represented to you and it is only now left to us to repeat Our approbation of his Services.

Mr Russell Skinner having requested and Received our Permission to resign the Service in order to return to England takes his passage on Board the Hampshire.—In Justice to the merit of this Gentleman we must acquaint you that you have lost hereby the Services of a very valuable Servant & whose Conduct on all Occasions hath met with entire approbation.

We appointed Messrs Barwell, Skinner, Lawrell and Baber to investigate the Cause of the Errors you pointed out to us in the Restitution accounts & enclosed we have the honor to send you a Copy of a Letter from them on the Subject together with some accounts which we flatter ourselves will be satisfactory until we are able to transmit you Copies of all the accounts you have required.

In the Paragraph of our Letter of the 25th of September last, —we had the pleasure to acquaint you that the Ballance of the Accounts of the Society of trade amounting to [.....] had been paid in to your Treasury & we have the honour to enclose you Copies of their Accounts.

Major Graham addressed a Letter to you by the Ankerwyke on the Subject of his Dismission which we permitted to be transmitted in her Packet but as it was delivered in after our dispatches had been closed we were prevented making any Remarks on it by that Ship. Indeed very few are Necessary and our own Proceedings we flatter ourselves will fully refute the general Charge Major Graham would wish to establish against our Conduct on that Occasion.

However as there are some parts of this Letter which it is necessary should be particularly Replied to—We shall now answer them.

Major Graham asserts that our refusing to receive his Letters because they were not transmitted through the Channel of the Commander in Chief was a pretence; that he never yet was able to discover such an Order—that he does not think such a one was extant & that he believes we were determined to receive nothing from him which General Smith had not first seen and Commented upon.—Without animadverting on this Gentlemans stile of writing or what means he took to discover this order—we shall only refer you to our Consultation of the 1st of October 1764 where it stands

recorded & assure you that it was issued in the General orders of the Army,—as will appear by a Letter from Capt Harper late aid du Camp to General Smith to Captain Fullarton his present—Copy of which goes a Number in the Packet

In the Reason Major Graham assigns for not making the dispute publick—he seems to Arrogate to himself a degree of merit we do not think he entirely deserves,—for by the Information of Sir Robert Barker & Colonel Chapman gave us this day, & which is recorded on the Consultation, it appears the Dispute was a Topick of Conversation, & it is but reasonable to Suppose that the Occasion of the Dispute was well known, though Major Graham did not distribute Copies of the Letters that passed & Colonel Barker and Chapman did not hear the particulars

Major Graham asserts that he was tried & dismissed the service by a Council consisting of six Members only of whom General Smith made one, We cannot but express our Surprize at this assertion of Major Graham's after personally attending the Council & receiving Copies of our Consultation—For it appears by the Records & he was an Eye Witness of the Fact that General Smith did not sit at that Consultation when Judgement was finally passed upon his Conduct

The Remarks in the last Paragraph of Major Graham's Letter are very injurious and disrespectful—for it is apparent from the Records, that as much Lenity was shewed towards him as it was in our power to shew and that his dismission proceeded entirely from his own Refractory & disrespectful Conduct—his Insinuation of General Smith's persecuting him with Malice & influencing the Board are so unbecoming Reflections, & so unworthy the refutation of this Board it is needless to have recourse to Argument to refute them

We cannot close this address without doing Justice to the merit of our Secretary Mr Baber whose abilities, assiduity and uniformity of Conduct in his Office has particularly distinguished him superior to his age and the station he bears in your Service that we recommend him to you in the same light he has appeared to us entitled to every mark of your favor

We have laden on Board the Hampshire Sundry goods and merchandize to the amount of 903,700-0-0 and on the Lioness to the amount of 843 400 0 0 agreeable to the Invoice enclosed

And on the former of these Ships several Articles for the use of your Island at St Helena amounting to Current Rupees 1,846 2 6 and on the latter to the same amount

By the Hampshire we have licensed Diamonds & precious stones to the amount of [.....] and on the Lioness to the amount of [.....] agreeable to the respective Registers.

The Ballance of your Treasury this day is 1,42,818-13-6 and of your Cash is 21,137-12-3.

We have the honor to be

With Respect

Hon'ble Sirs

Your faithfull Humble Servants

Harry Verelst/John Cartier/Richard Smith/  
Claud Russell/Thomas Rumbold/Charles  
Floyer/Francis Hare.

Fort William

the 23d November 1769.

### 39

#### LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1769

*French military preparations at Mauritius suspected—Madras to send surplus troops to Bombay—King and Vazir not yet marching to Delhi—Verelst and Smith to return to Europe.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Nothing material has Occur'd to your Affairs here since we had the Honor to address you by the Ankerwyke under date the 30 Sepr. a Duplicate of which Letter waits on you a number in the Present Packet.

2. We beg leave to assure you that all Possible attention shall be paid to the informations & Directions Contain'd in a Letter we have rec'd from your Secret Committee Dated the 1st April last, Via. Bombay & we hope you will be Persuaded that our utmost endeavours will be exerted to defeat any design's the French may Entertain against your Valuable Possessions in India.—

3. Altho' the Present Situation of Affairs in Bengal bids fair for a Continuance in that Happy state of Tranquility which these Provinces have now long Enjoy'd, yet when we consider the very great Military preparations which, we have no longer a doubt the French are making at the Islands we think it highly incumbent on

us to prepare against any sudden or meditated Attempt which may be made on this Presidency, & therefore, to have for our first & most serious Object the Completion of your Fortifications with all Possible Dispatch—we have assur'd the Gentlemen at Madras & Bombay that we will not only transmit to them the earliest Intelligence we may obtain of any such Hostile Intentions, but that we will Contribute our warmest support to that Presidency which may be most in want of our assistance —

4 The Secret Department of Fort St George has laid before us the state of your forces on that Establishment And have Express'd a desire of Co-operating with us in any measures which may be deem'd most Conduive to your General Benefit By that Statement there appears to be upwards of 300 Europeans exceeding their Military Establishment whom they have Proposed to send round to this Presidency, but at the same time that they Transmitted to us this information they transmitted also an Extract of a Letter they had Receiv'd from the Gentlemen at Bombay under date 8th Sept last, wherein that Presidency is represented to be in the most Distressed Condition not having a sufficient number of Europeans to Perform the Common details of Duty it must likewise be observ'd that they had only receiv'd forty six Recruits by the Ships Hampshire, Deptford, & Speaker, & that they had but little reason to expect a much greater number by the other Ships of the Season

5 We could not without great regret behold this very low state to which your Military Force is reduc'd at Bombay—& at a juncture too when it is absolutely necessary that all your Presidencies should be put into a respectable state of Defence—altho' our own Establishment will be far from being Complete even after the arrival of the Expected Recruits on the Prince of Wales & Duke of Kingston Yet their Distress'd situation on the other side of India & the necessity of their being timely assisted with such a force as to enable them Effectually to secure your Possessions on the Malabar Coast were motives so Powerfull with us that we did not hesitate a moment because we thought it most Conduive to the General good of your service—In resolving to supply their wants in preference to less dangerous ones of our own, We accordingly recommended to the Gentlemen at Madrass to send round to Bombay the surplus Number of their Troops which they had Destin'd for this settlement & inform'd them that the Season being favourable for the Shipping to Proceed to the Coast we would endeavour to provide them Tonnage for that purpose—Of this resolution we took an early Opportunity to acquaint the President & Council at Bombay that they might not remain in an unnecessary suspense with regard to their future supplies of Troops from the Coast —

6. At the same time that we are so desirous of relieving the Distresses of our Neighbouring Presidency—We could not help expressing our most serious apprehensions for our own Military Force, which from Casualties incidental to this Climate, must be reduc'd Considerably below the Establishment 'eer [ere] further supplies can arrive from Europe—It is for this reason that we have particularly Requested of the Madrass Presidency to send round to us the first Recruits of the Ensuing Season.—

7. We are inform'd that the Term for which the Soldiers from his Majesty's Regiment had inlisted at Madrass & that for which the Recruits which Arriv'd on that Coast in the Year 1764 had engag'd to serve the Company being now expir'd many of them are soliciting their Discharges as this is a Circumstance which may occasion possibly a Pretty Considerable reduction of your military force there, & Deprive your Army on that Establishment of a Part of its Veteran Troops we have as an encouragement to retain those Men in your Service recommended to the President at Madras to enlist them for this establishment & in Exchange for such as they may be thus Depriv'd of to detain an equal number of Recruits which may be destin'd for Bengal in the next Season.

8. We hope soon to inform you of the safe return of your Detachment of Bengal Seapoys employ'd in the Decan, Mr. Cotsford your Resident at Gangam has rec'd orders from his Superiors to that Purport & we in Consequence of such Orders given have strongly enjoin'd the Commanding Officer of that Detachment to pursue his March hither with all Possible Expedition.

9. The King & the Nabob Vizier have not yet begun their March towards Delhi—The preparations which have long been making seem to indicate his Majestys serious intention of pursuing his favourite project & our last advices from Lucknoa dated 24th Octr. acquaint us that the Nabob Sujah-ul-Dowlah was even to March in a few Days towards the Ghaut of Mhindy.—

10. In our Address of the 30th Sepr. you were Advis'd of the intentions of our Governor Mr. Verelst & of Brigadier Genl. Smith to return to Europe in some of the Ships of this Season, the former has accordingly taken his Passage in the Lioness & the later on the Hampshire both these Ships are under Dispatch, by them this Letter will be Transmitted in two Copies & we shall have the Honor to send you the Broken sett of our Proceedings since the Ankerwykes Dispatch by the Ship Lioness which will probably follow the Hampshire in a few Days.—

11. General Smith has resign'd the Seats he held in Council & Committee—& here we cannot in justice to this Gentleman pass over

in silence his meritorious services in every Department he has been Call'd to, as well Civil as Military under this Presidency—His Zeal for the Publick Wellfare & his Particular Attachment to your Interest you are already acquainted with, since you have been pleas'd to Distinguish the General with very Honorable Testimonies of your approbation of his Conduct. It now remains for us, & it is a Task we undertake with Pleasure, to assure you that we entertain the Highest sence of his Zeal Integrity & Abilities & we are concern'd to lose the future services of so Valuable a Companies Servant.—

12. He will be succeeded in Command of your Forces on this Establishment by General Sir Robert Barker an Officer of whose Character & Abilities we entertain a very high Opinion.

We have the Honor to subscribe ourselves with great respect.—

Your faithful & most Obedient  
Humble Servants.

Fort William  
The 1st December 1769

Hon'ble Sirs,  
J. Cartier/R. Smith/C. Floyer.

40

LETTER DATED 16 DECEMBER 1769

*The claim of Bulaki Das—Md. Reza Khan consulted—demand of Bulaki Das discharged with interest.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sir & Sirs,

Since the closing of our Letter under date the 23d Ultimo which we had the honour to inform you was to go in Duplicate by the Ships Lioness and Hampshire—We have received news of the arrival of the Valentine in England & that you deemed her advices of so much Importance as to require immediate answers—and as we had reason to expect these answers daily, The Governour being desirous to know the Result of them requested we would detain the Lioness a short time longer in hopes of their arrival & we accordingly complied with his Request.

This delay gives us an Opportunity of acquainting you with

some few Circumstances that have occurred since the departure of the Hampshire.

In Consequence of your orders relative to the Claim of Bolockydoss Seat for 230000 we have made the strictest Enquiry into the nature of this Demand—We could not find the least Reason from what appears upon Record for the Supposition that this money was the property of Cossim Ally Cawn, yet for our own & your more particular Satisfaction we judged Mahomed Reza Cawn the most proper person to Consult on this Subject as He was at Dacca at the time the money was borrowed and intimately acquainted with the Circumstances.

His opinion on this Subject stands recorded on our Consultation of this day, and corroborates with our own & puts it out of Dispute that this Claim of Bolockydoss is justly founded & that the money was his property.—We have therefore ordered the Demand to be discharged with the Interest that is due & Bonds to be made out for the amount.

Mr Verelst hath taken his leave of the Board in a Letter recorded on this day's Proceedings & proceeds to England on this Ship and Mr Cartier agreeably to your appointment will succeed him in the Government.

In the account of his receipts and Disbursements which he laid before us it appears the whole amount of Nuzzerannies he received during his Government is only 295715-0-6.

This moderate sum is not only a strong [proof] of the Integrity of Mr Verelst's actions & that in accepting these Nuzzerannies he did it merely in Compliance with an unavoidable Custom of the Country, but a Convincing one that he must have discouraged the Custom and We could have wished Gentlemen that it had been totally and absolutely in our power to have granted him this Sum, But being dubious how far our Authority extends in a point of this Nature or whether the power of permitting a Governour to accept the Complimentary presents for his own use is vested solely in you, we could only give our Consent for his taking them to himself as far as it rests with us, This we have done nor have we a doubt But you Gentlemen will as readily give yours.

Major Thomas Pearson having requested leave to resign your Service in order to return to England on account of his own private affairs at home we granted him permission & he accordingly proceeds on this Ship.—We beg leave in justice to the merit of this Officer to inform you that during the Time he has been in your Service his

Conduct in the several Stations he has held hath allways met with the approbation of his Superiors.

Captain Robert Coxe hath also requested the same permission on account of an Unhappy Complaint in his Eyes which obliges him to seek relief from his Native Climate.—He has requested us to allow him his pay during his stay in England, & to recommend him to you to permit him to Return to his Station, should his Health be reestablished.

As we are not authorized to comply with the former part of his Request, we can only assure you Gentlemen, this Indulgence will be very worthily bestowed.—Captain Coxe came round from Bombay at the time of the Resignation & hath conducted himself so much to our satisfaction that we think it but justice to intercede with you in his Behalf that his pay may be continued to him & that you will be pleased to permit his return to his Station should he apply for it.

Mr Rumbold being of a Different Opinion from the rest of the Board in regard to that part of our Letter of the 23d ultimo which mentions Major Grahams having claimed merit he is not entitled to in not making known to the Officers what passed between him & General Smith, entered his Dissent to it which is recorded in Consultation of the 8th Instant.

Mr John Dyneley whom we recommended to you in our Letter of the 28th November 1766 for having entered into the military Service at the time of the Resignation of the Officers, proceeds to England on board this Ship & we beg leave to renew our application in behalf of this Gentleman that you will be pleased to admit him on your Civil List of Covenanted Servants.

Mr Thomas Ashburner one of your Servants on the Bencoolen Establishment who came hither in order to adjust the affairs of his late Brother having represented to us that he is under the Necessity of returning to England in order to settle some matters with the Heirs & that so soon as not to admit of his receiving the permission of his Superiours at Fort Marlbro—We have permitted him to proceed on board the *Lioness*.

On the departure of General Smith we appointed Sir Robert Barker to the Command of the Army.

As you judge it necessary the Commander of your Army should hold a Rank superiour to any other Officer, We have appointed Sir Robert Barker a Brigadier General as well in Compliance with these your Intentions as in Justice to the merits of Sir Robert Barker whom we deem highly worthy of this mark of Distinction.



The Royal Charlotte hath taken in the whole of her Cargo & will sail in a few days—We purpose dispatching the Duke of Grafton the end of January and the Anson about the 10th of February.

We are sorry to inform you neither the Duke of Kingston or Prince of Wales are yet arrived—nor have we received any Intelligence where they are.

The Ballance of this day in your Treasury is C Rs 1009929-0-6 and in your Cash Chest C Rs 2415-0-0.

We have the honor to be with Respect.

Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your faithful Humble Servants,  
Harry Verelst/John Cartier/Claud Russell/  
Thomas Rumbold/Charles Floyer/Francis  
Hare/Joseph Jekyll.

Fort William  
the 16th Decr. 1769.

*Postscript:*—The three following sets of Certificates were granted by the Hampshire—But as the Money was not paid into the Treasury before Her dispatches were closed we were prevented advising you of them & sending the register by that Ship.

- |   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| 1 | Set dated 28th November 1769 To Captain William Larkins account himself & officers of the Lioness                         | 44,443-4-3 |
| 1 | Set dated the 4th December 1769 To Captn. Fasham Nairn account himself & officers of the late Ship Lord Holland . . . . . | 30,000-0-0 |
| 1 | Set dated the 4th December 1769 to Captn. John Smith account himself & officers of the Ship Hampshire . . . . .           | 30,000-0-0 |

We have licensed by this Ship the Lioness sundry Bulses of Diamonds & precious Stones amounting to Current Rupees 181700-0-0 in addition to what we advised you of in our Letter of the 23d ultimo agreeably to the additional Register which goes a Number in the packet.

We have the honor to be with Respect.

Hon'ble Sirs  
Your faithfull Humble Servants  
Harry Verelst/John Cartier/Claud Russell/  
Thomas Rumbold/Carles Floyer/Francis  
Hare/Joseph Jekyll.

Fort William  
18 Decemr.

## LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1769

*Supervisors to defer their departure to different districts until the period of heavy collections is over—Verelst's departure—an appreciation of his services*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies —  
Hon'ble Sirs,

1 The detention of the Ship *Lyoness* presents to us an Opportunity of Addressing you this second letter by her, for the Conciseness of which we hope to stand excus'd having already wrote you by the Ships of this Season under date 30th Sepr & 1st Instant—a Triplicate of the former & a Copy of the latter we have herewith the Honor to Transmit you —

2 Brigadier General Smith having at our last meeting before his Departure to Europe deliver'd in a minute, wherein he Complain'd of the Disrespectfull Behaviour of Colonel Joseph Peach towards him as Commander in Chief, our President has since replied thereto and laid before us such Circumstances in Answer to the Generals Complaint as have in our Opinion very sufficiently Justified Colonel Peaches Conduct —

3 As General Smith in his said minute requested to be favour'd from your Secretary in London with Copies of whatever should pass on this Occasion after his Embarkation we doubt not but you will concur with us in Opinion of the Propriety of his being furnish'd with them & that you will comply with his request For the Particulars of this Circumstance we beg leave to refer you to our Proceedings of the 1st & 15th Instant wherein are recorded General Smiths Minute, the Presidents Reply & the resolution of your Select Committee

4 The Vacancy occasion'd by General Smiths resignation was fill'd by Mr Russel he has accordingly taken his Seat as a Member of Our Board & takes this Opportunity of returning his thanks for the Honor you have been pleas'd to Confer on him by such a Nomination —

5 From a representation made to us by the Resident at the Durbar that the Collection of the Present Years Revenues would be endanger'd by the Gentlemen whom we inform'd you had been

appointed Supravisors of the several principal Districts in the Bengal Province proceeding upon the immediate Execution of their Duties we have deem'd it more Condusive to your Interest to defer their departure Untill the Period of Heavy Collections is Ellaped (*sic*) which we Conclude will be in March or April next such only of the Supravisors as were appointed to those Districts which have been let out to Farm have proceed to the Durbar in order to receive their instructions from the Resident as those Countries being rented [on?] fixt leases made the immediate presence of their Supravisors necessary.

6. Mr. Alexander whom we had the Honor to inform you was appointed your Chief at Patna has also been nominated Supravisor of the Bahar Province in the Room of Mr. Rumbold who has resign'd that Station.

7. Our Governor Mr. Verelst has taken leave of the Committee & is preparing to embark for Europe on the Lioness—We cannot on this Occasion omit expressing to you, the Sense we entertain of the Zeal he has shewn for your Service; of the integrity & disinterestedness with which he has Conducted himself during his Administration at the Head of this Government.

8. We have the Honor to transmit to you herewith, the broken sett of our Proceedings since the Dispatch of the Ankerwyke & sundry other Papers as P List of Packet inclosed & to subscribe ourselves with great respect—

Fort William  
17th Dec. 1769.

Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your faithful & most Obedient,  
Humble Servants  
J. Cartier/C. Russell/C. Floyer.

## 42

### LETTER DATED 20 DECEMBER 1769

*Cartier succeeds Verelst on 24 December.*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

The Royal Charlotte being fully Laden, We now dispatch her

to you with a Cargo amounting to C Rs 805300 0-0 agreeable to the Invoice and first Bill of Lading enclosed.

Our last advices were dated the 16th Instant & went in an additional Letter by the Lioness a Duplicate of which we have now the Honor to enclose.

Mr. Thomas Bagnall one of your Surgeons on the Civil list, having long struggled with a dangerous Complaint, is obliged to return to his native Climate, in hopes of reestablishing his Health as it is the unanimous opinion of the Physicians who have attended him, that it is impossible he should get the better of it in this Country.

As nothing but so urgent an occasion as the present would have induced Mr. Bagnall at this time to take this resolution and he has expressed a desire of returning to his Station in India, should he reestablish his Health, we beg leave to intercede on this Gentlemans behalf & to intreat if he makes such a request it may be granted; as we can assure you that from his skill in his profession & his great merit, in paying the strictest attention to his Duty he is entitled to every mark of your favour.—

The Ballance of your Treasury this day amounts to Current Rupees 1067334 9 3 & of Cash to Curr Rupees 2415-0-0.

We are

Hon'ble Sirs

Your faithfull humble Servants

Harry Verelst/John Cartier/Claud Russell/

Fort William Thomas Rumbold/Charles Floyer/Francis  
the 20th December 1769. Hare/Joseph Jekyll.

*Postscript:*—We have the honour to inform you that on the 24th of this month the Hon'ble Mr Verelst resigned the Government and was succeeded in it by the Hon'ble Mr Cartier.

Fort William

26th December 1769.

Mr. Rumbold hath this day requested leave to resign your Service & Obtained our Permission and takes his passage on board this Ship.

We have the honor to be with Respect

Hon'ble Sirs

Your faithfull humble Servants

John Cartier/Claud Russell/Thomas/

Fort William Rumbold/Charles Floyer/Francis Hare/  
28th December 1769. Joseph Jekyll.





# NOTES





# NOTES

## LETTERS FROM COURT

No. 3—4 March 1767.

1. Black writers—The black writers were generally Indian Christians, probably some of mixed Portuguese and Indian blood.

2. Bettiah country—Northern sub-division of Champaran District, Bihar. Sir Robert Barker was sent from Patna to the Bettiah district in Bihar to demolish the forts and subdue the turbulent zamindar Jugal Kishore Singh. He succeeded in his mission and wrote in a letter dated 5 March 1766, "Bettea will, I think, be of considerable consequence to the Company. Its firs will afford masts for all the ships in India, which must produce a new and considerable trade with the other nations in India as well as advantage to our shipping. Gold and Cinnamons are also here, Timbers as large as any I have seen; Musk and Elephant's teeth besides many other commodities I have not yet got the knowledge of."—Long, the Revd. J., *Selections from Unpublished Records of Government for the years 1748 to 1767*, Vol. I, (Calcutta, 1869) p. 464.

3. Burjaut—The practice of selling goods by force for more than the current market price.

No. 5—4 March 1767.

1. Malvan—Port and chief town of Malvan *taluka*, Ratnagiri District, Bombay, situated 70 miles south of Ratnagiri town. Malvan was for a long time the stronghold of Maratha pirates known as the "Malvans".

In 1765, the Bombay Government sent an expedition which reduced Malvan and Raicee (about 20 miles south of Malvan), the former belonging to Kolhapur and the latter to Savantwadi,—*Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency*, Vol. X, Ratnagiri and Savantwadi, (Bombay, 1880) pp. 346—51, 441—42.

2. Morung country—near the Coochbehar—Bhutan frontier; Kamdat Singh was at that time the Rajah of Morung—*Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol. II, (Calcutta, 1914) No. 85.

3. Noquedah—Nakhuda i.e., Captain of a ship or owner though not so in this case.

4. Ingeram—Injaram, village in Coconada *taluka* of Godavari District, Madras, situated 5 miles south of Coringa on the Injaram Canal. The place was well known for its fine cloth and the English established a factory there as early as 1708—*Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XIII, (Oxford, 1908) p. 365.

5. Tuncaw money—An assignment of revenue for a specific purpose.

6. Mr. Parry—See *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. III. "The offending marriage had been solemnised on the 9th September and what makes the affair more curious is that the bridegroom was one of the members of the Council ... from October 7th, 1765 to the date when this letter was received, say August or September of 1767, Mr. Parry continued at Calcutta in an anomalous position; for though

formally dismissed he never appears to have ceased to exercise the functions nor to participate in the temporal privileges of his office".—Hyde, Henry Barry, *Parochial Annals of Bengal*. (Calcutta, 1901) p 135.

7. **Revd. Mr. John Thomas**—When Mr Parry was incapacitated by illness for public duties the council secured the services of Revd Thomas from Madras. He officiated until the arrival of Revd. Thomas Blomer. During the months he officiated, Mr. Thomas conceived a preference for Calcutta—hence this request. But when after Revd Blomer's death on 15 June, 1767, the Calcutta Council wrote to Madras for him, he did not come—Hyde, *op. cit.*, pp 137.

#### No. 7—20 November 1767.

1. **Outcry account**—i.e. auction account, referring to bids for revenue farms or for imported goods of the English Company made at public auctions

2. **John Cooke**—He began his official career as member of Dacca factory, rose to be Sheriff of Calcutta, Military Paymaster, Military Store Keeper and ultimately Secretary, Select Committee. He was at this time President of the "quorum" of zamindars of 24-Parganas

3. **Adrian Bisdom**—See *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vols I, II and III. He was the Dutch Director of Hooghly and Chinsura

4. **William Watts**—Famous for his intrigues at Murshidabad that ensured the inactivity of Mir Jafar, Roy Durlabh and Yar Latif Khan at Plassey—not to be confused with Hugh Watts who was Resident at Midnapur

5. **Coja Wannis**—Most probably Khwajah Menis, an Armenian merchant—*Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol I, (Calcutta, 1911) No 1918

6. **Rajah Tiluckchand**—Tilakchand of Burdwan—Kirtichand (died in 1740), Chitra Sen Rai (died in 1744), Tilakchand, his cousin (died in 1770)

7. **Bellamy and Mapletoft**—See *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vols I & III, Jervis Bellamy was appointed Company's Chaplain at Fort William to succeed Joseph Paget. He took charge of his duties in August, 1726. Robert Mapletoft arrived in Calcutta in August, 1750 as second Chaplain. Both of them died in 1756 in the alleged "Black Hole incident". Hyde, *op. cit.*, pp 81-82, 98-99, 108

8. **Committee of Lands**—In their general letter to Bengal of 1 April 1760 (para 96), the Directors constituted the Committee of Lands for the management of the Company's new acquisitions, which was to consist of five persons (the second for the time being to be the head together with at least two others of the Council). The President was to take the lead whenever he found it necessary

9. **Barnagore**—Baranagar town in Barrackpore sub-division of the District of Twenty four Parganas, Bengal, situated six miles from Calcutta up the river Hughli. It was for some time under Dutch occupation. It was at this time one of the most important *aurungs* of the British

10. **Pachet Passes**—The Pachet or Panchkot hill is in the headquarters sub-division of Manbhum District, half-way between Raghunath-

pur and the junction of the Barakar and Damodar rivers. The hill is in a commanding position near the Barakar beyond Raniganj.

**No. 11—16 March 1768.**

1. **Cossaes Cogmaria fine FBB POSC and Humbums Superfine SFHM**—Sortments of cloth; Cogmaria in Dacca District; Cossaes (Khasa) i.e. fine muslins; humbums—flowered fabrics.

2. **Gaut of Duan Gunge**—In the district of Burdwan. Ramdual Tagore was the Daroga of Diwangang when this disturbance took place there—See *Press List of the Public Department Records, 1748-1800*, Vol. VII, p. 77.

3. **Banksaul**—A ware-house or the office of a harbour-master or other port authority.—Yule, H and Burnell, A. C., *Hobson-Jobson*, (London, 1903) pp. 61-62.

4. **Buddaul**—In the zamindari of the Raja of Santosh in Mymensingh District. It was famous in those days for its fine plain muslins.

5. **Anthony Polier**—Of French Protestant extraction and Swiss domicile, he came to India in 1757 and rose in five years to be the Chief Engineer of Calcutta. The Court of Directors refused him further promotion after he had attained the rank of Major on account of his foreign nationality. He resigned in 1776 and entered into the service of the Nawab of Oudh—Sen, S. N., "A Note on Major Polier's Resignation"—*Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings*. Vol. XX, (1943) pp. 75-78.

**No. 11—18 March 1768.—Enclosure list.**

1. **Thomas Comfort**—A Lieutenant in December 1769, he died in June 1773 at Coochbehar. The Raja of Coochbehar had acknowledged British suzerainty in 1772.—Hodson, V. C. P., *List of Officers of the Bengal Army*, Part I, (London, 1927) p. 370.

2. **Lewis Doxat**—A Captain in November 1778, he died in August 1781 at Ramnagar. He was possibly there in connection with the Chait Singh affair.—Hodson, *op. cit.*, Part II, (London, 1928) p. 83.

3. **Robert Keith**—Killed in January, 1770 near Rangpur (most probably in a skirmish with Sannyasi raiders).—*Ibid*, p. 376.

**No. 13—11 November 1768.**

1. **"Duty of mangan"**—(Mangan) Duty paid on petty merchandise imported and exported.

2. **Island of Balambangan**—Off the north coast of Borneo, ceded together with a portion of Borneo by a Sultan of Sulu, who was a prisoner at Manila but was released by the English. The Company's first settlers were expelled by the Sulus. A second settlement was abandoned as a failure. See *Press List of the Public Department Records, 1748-1800*. Vol. IX, p. 6.

3. **Sicca and Sonnaut**—See Introduction, *Supra* p. 22.

4. **Chakeran lands**—Lands exempted from revenue on the plea of being appropriated to maintain the public officers and servants.—Wilson,

H H, *A Glossary of Judicial and Revenue Terms*, Enlarged Edition, (Calcutta, 1940), p 151

5 **Gentil**—The celebrated French adventurer, who was in Shuja's service for many years and was a personal friend of Shuja ud Daulah. He was the author of the famous *Memoires sur l'Indoustan*—Buckland C E, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*, (London, 1906), p 161

6 **Tilly Kettle**—A portrait painter (1740-86), was in India from 1770 to 1777 where he made his fortune. His portrait of Warren Hastings is in the National Portrait Gallery. He died in 1786 at Aleppo—Buckland, *op cit*, p 234

7 **Bolackydass**—The celebrated banker whose name is associated with the Nand Kumar Case—See Amir Ali Torick, 'Bolaqui Das's Account with the East India Company and the Trial of Nand Kumar,' *Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings Vol XX*, (1943), pp 12-15

#### No 13-A—9 December 1768

1 **James Grant**—He is not to be confused with James Grant, the revenue expert, who was appointed writer in May 1778. This James Grant assisted in the attack on Warren Hastings in 1775 and was included by Hastings in his list of wretches. He went home in 1776 and was not permitted to return to India—Firminger, W K, *The Fifth Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Affairs of the East India Company*, Vol I, (Calcutta, 1917), p xxx

#### No 16—17 March 1769

1 **Ingelee**—Hijili, a village in the Contai subdivision, Midnapur District, Bengal, situated on the left bank of the Rasulpur river close to, the sea, three miles from Kedgerree (Khejuri). The most important event in the history of Hijili was its capture by Job Charnock in 1687 and its siege by the Mughal troops. The Kunpure Khal cut off Hijili and Khejuri from the mainland and the two were separated from each other by the river Cowcolly no trace even of the channel of which is now visible—O Malley, L S S, *Bengal District Gazetteer Midnapore* (Calcutta, 1911) pp 182-191

2 **Baftaes, Cossaes, Emmerties, Gurrahs**—36 different denominations of cotton cloth were made at Dacca even in 1840—Birdwood, George C M, *Industrial Arts of India* (London, 1880), p 249. Textile fabrics took their names very often from the place where they first acquired excellence and retained these long after the local manufacture had been transferred to some other place. Bafta—a cloth called bafta is made in Bhagalpur division of tasar silk in the warp and cotton in the weft. Cossaes—Khasa, see *ante* p 623, Gurrahs—a rather coarse sortment of cloth. Bafta means woven—Birdwood, *op cit* p 240

#### Enclosure No 1—

3 **Sultan of Sooloo**—The Sulu archipelago in Philippine Islands is situated between North Borneo and Mindanao. The inhabitants were very much given to piracy in those days.

#### No 18—30 June 1769

1 **King of Sooloo**—The same as Sultan of Soolo

## Additional Notes

No. 13—11 November 1768, page 149.

**William Boughton**—Assistant to the Chief and Council of Revenue at Murshidabad in December 1771.

**Richard Phipps**—Appointed at Rangpur in 1771 where he continued at least up to 1774.

**Frederick Farrer**—The only entry in the *Press List of Public Department Records* is in Volume VIII, p. 135, 14 October, 1771.—“Register of bonds granted, drawn up by Mr. Frederick Farrer for Mr. George Bright, sub-treasurer.”

**Richard Sumner**—Secretary to the Board of Revenue in 1774, Chief of Chittagong factory in 1778 and Collector of Chittagong.

**Lewis Crusius Laplant**—A Cruss Laplant was Secretary to the Chief and Council at Patna in 1779.

**Tilman Henckell**—He became Collector of Jessore and later Collector of Rajshahi. He was in the service of the Company in India at least up to 1800—*Press List of Public Department Records*, Vol. XVII, p. 312.

**Thomas Kirkman**—He rose to be Paymaster of the 2nd Brigade. He died in 1780.

**John Champain**—He became Magistrate of Dacca and Collector and Magistrate of 24-Parganas.

**John Bristow**—He should not be confused with the better known Resident at the Court of Oudh who must have come much earlier.

**Matthew Day**—Appointed assistant at the factory at Dacca, he rose ultimately to be the Collector of Dacca.

**Charles Graeme**—He was for a long time the Collector of Sarkar Saran in Bihar.

**Peter Speke**—He began as Assistant to the Supervisor at Rangpur, then became Resident at Jangipur, Collector of Rajshahi, Resident at the Court of Murshidabad, President of the Board of Trade and ultimately Vice-President and Deputy Governor of Bengal in January 1797.

**George Herbert**—He was the Paymaster of the Third Brigade from 1772 to 1786.

**William Cowper**—He became a member of the Board of Revenue in 1786 and rose ultimately to be President, Board of Revenue.

**Henry Richardson**—He began his official career under the Chief and Council at Patna, became one of the *Jamadars* of Chandernagore and Chinsura and later Collector of Hooghly.

**Matthew Gunning**—We find in the records that he was acting as Commissary-General in September 1776.

**William Augustus Brooke**—Appointed Paymaster of the First Brigade in 1771, he rose to be Revenue Chief of Patna, Collector of Shahabad and Magistrate and Collector of Burdwan. The Board of Revenue paid him a gratuity in April 1797.

**Samuel Charters**—He was known as one of the most successful collectors in the service of the East India Company. He was one of the four covenanted servants selected in 1781 to form the Central Committee of Revenue. He was paid commission on the excess of collec-

tions in 1192 BS 1193 FS (1785 86 AD) In November 1791 he wanted the Secretary to pay him the allowance usually paid to servants out of employ—*Press List of Public Department Records*, Vol XIII, pp 38 and 352

**Joseph Lloyd Harris**—He rose to be the Commercial Resident at Chittagong

**Peter Moore**—He was Collector of Calcutta in 1782, one of the Commissioners of Police of Calcutta in 1784 and Member of the Committee of Revenue in 1788

**Thomas Graham**—Resident at Benares from 1777 to 1780, was for some time Persian interpreter to Sir Eyre Coote, became Acting President of the Board of Revenue in 1791 and was soon after confirmed in his appointment In 1798 his claim to a seat in the Supreme Council was considered Not to be confused with John Graham who was Resident at Burdwan and Midnapur, a member of the Controlling Council at Murshidabad and a member of the Committee of Circuit in 1772

**George Hatch**—He began as an Assistant in Dacca factory and rose to be Paymaster of the First Brigade and then of the Third Brigade He was later Collector of Dinajpur The last reference to him is to be found in the *Bengal Public Consultation* 18 December, 1800, No 22 in which he claimed that he was entitled to some compensation

**Charles Steynsham Collinson**—He was Resident at Rampur Boalia in 1784, resigned in 1797

**Edward Smith**—He rose to be Resident at Rangpur

**William Wroughton**—In the official hierarchy the highest position which he eventually occupied was that of the Collector, first at Mymensingh and then at Bhulua In 1791 when he was on board the *Trantsmondoff* a writ was served on him and he was delivered up to the officers of the Sheriff for settlement of a debt

#### No. 21—7 December 1769, page 261

**George Bogle**—Commissioner of law suits in 1778, Collector of Rangpur in 1779, he is famous for his celebrated mission to Tibet He was one of the members of the Amiri Commission of 1776

**Robert Adair**—He was for some time Commissary at Chinsura and rose to be Collector of Bhagalpur

**Robert Tomlinson**—Accountant to Board of Trade and later Salt Agent at Bhulua and Chittagong The last recorded entry about him in the *Press List of the Public Department Records* is dated 24 April, 1792

**George Hodgson**—In 1779 he was Secretary to the Board of Revenue

**Richard Griffith**—His name is mentioned in 3 documents from one of which he appears to be an opium contractor in 1776 77

**Sir John Doyly**—Assistant to Persian Translator, Bengal Army, he became Translator in 1775 He was later Sheriff of Calcutta and then Resident at the Court of Murshidabad for about a decade from 1780 to 1789

**David Burges**—He was paymaster at Dinapore in 1799

**James Peter Auriol**—He rose to be Agent for supplies to the Presidencies

**George Cumming**—Collector of Ramgarh, then Additional Divisional Judge of Burdwan, he was also for some time Registrar and Assistant Magistrate of Rangpur and later of Shahabad.

**John Carmichael**—He was Paymaster of the garrison at Fort William. He had an estate on Borneo Island.

**William Bruere**—He became Agent for supplies to the Presidencies, a Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and later Paymaster of Works.

**John Haldane**—He began as Resident at Khirpai and Haripal and rose to be Collector of Customs at Calcutta. He was occupying this position in June 1799.

**Henry Lodge**—The last important post that he held was that of Accountant General to the Mayor's Court.

**George Richard Foley**—He rose to be Custom Master, Calcutta, and Civil Paymaster.

**John Hannay**—He was Import Warehouse Keeper and rose to be Paymaster of the Third Brigade.

**William Taylor**—All that we know about him is that he wanted leave of absence for three years in October 1785.

**Nathaniel Middleton**—He became Resident at the Court of Oudh and Collector of Asaf-ud-Daulah's assignments.

**Isaac Baugh**—He rose to be Secretary to the Board in Revenue Department and Secretary to the Board of Ordnance. He resigned towards the end of 1781.

**Richard Johnson**—He became Member, Board of Revenue, in 1786 (occupying a deliberative seat), was Chairman, General Bank of India in 1787, became Accountant General, Board of Revenue, and Church Warden.

**John Evelyn**—He became one of the Commissioners of Police, which post he resigned in 1782. He became Member, Board of Revenue, in 1786.

**John Kneller**—Secretary to the Board, he solicited passage back to England and leave for three years in 1785.

**Edward Burges**—He became Judge of Murshidabad *Diwani Adalat*, Judge and Magistrate of Murshidabad and later of Nadia. He resigned on account of ill health in 1798.

**John Dyneley**—He became Deputy Postmaster at Murshidabad. He was Resident at Radhanagar factory in 1776.

**Thomas Pottenger**—Appointed in 1772 as an assistant at the factory at Cossimbazar.

**Joseph Barnard Smith**—He rose to be the Judge and Magistrate of 24-Parganas.

**James Lally**—All that we could glean about him is that he wanted to go in 1776 to the Malabar Coast for recovery of his health.

**Robert Burgh**—He became Paymaster of the Second Brigade.

**Lewis Pictet**—He was assistant in the factory at Cossimbazar in 1774. He perhaps proceeded to Europe in 1779.

**Charles Wilkins**—He learnt Bengali, Persian and Sanskrit and translated the *Bhagvad Gita* and *Hitopadesha*. Halhed's *Grammar of the Bengali Language* was printed in 1778 with types cast by Wilkins. He

also prepared a Persian fount of types. He played a very distinguished part as a visitor and examiner of the Haileybury College. His glossary of revenue terms is a very valuable contribution. It was published contemporaneously with the celebrated *Fifth Report*.

**Archibald Montgomery**—He was Collector of Saran in Bihar from 1788 to 1792.

**Samuel Touchet Junior**—Clerk to the Military Committee, he rose to be Assaymaster and Civil Paymaster.

**Charles Williams**—He began as an assistant at Chittagong factory. Nothing more is known about him.

## LETTERS TO COURT

### No. 1—20 January 1767.

1. **Strait of Dryen Banka and Sunda**—The Strait of Sunda is the channel separating Sumatra from Java and Banka is an island of the Dutch East Indies off the east coast of Sumatra from which it is separated by Banka Strait.

2. **Ghaut of Duan Gunge**—See *ante* p. 623.

3. **Gheepray**—Khurpai in the Ghatal sub-division of Midnapur on the road between Chandrakona and Ghatal. There was a weaving factory here for cotton and silk cloths. After 1763 the French also had a small factory at this place. The Dutch used to send agents here for purchase.

### No. 5—12 March 1767.

1. **Manapar**—Manapad lighthouse, south of Kulasekharapatnam, almost halfway between Cape Comorin and Tuticorin.

2. **Government of Salangore**—Sultanate of Selangor, now one of the Federated Malay States on the Western side of the Malay Peninsula.

3. **Noquedar**—See *ante* p. 621.

4. **Ingerane**—See Ingeram, *ante* p. 621.

5. **Coringa**—Village in the Coconada *taluka* of Godavari District, Madras, at the mouth of the northernmost branch of the Godavari 8 miles from Coconada. Coringa was an early Dutch settlement and was formerly the principal seaport and shipbuilding centre on the Eastern Coast.

### No. 6—17 March 1767.

1. **Serajepore**—Sheorajpur, an old village in Khajjuha *Tehsil*,



Fatehpur District, U. P., lying on the shore of the Ganges, 10 miles north of Bindki and 14 miles east of Kora.

2. **Raghunath Rao at Navagaut**—Raghunath Rao, uncle of Peshwa Madhava Rao, went out on an expedition to Hindustan. He failed to take Gohad after a protracted siege and had to remain content with a payment of 3 lakhs. He then proceeded to the south. Navagaut is most probably Nanaghat pass east of Kalyan.

**No. 9—26 August 1767.**

1. **Barrabulla**—At the mouth of the Hughli near Hijili.

2. **Kedgerree**—Khejiri, a village in the Contai subdivision of Midnapur District, Bengal, situated on the right bank of the river Hughli, 16 miles north-west of Contai. It was in those days an important anchorage for disembarkation of passengers who wanted to go to Calcutta. The journey up the Hughli being considered dangerous for the larger vessels, these lay at Kedgerree and loaded or unloaded their cargo. The passengers were taken to Calcutta or brought from Calcutta in sloops. With the shifting of the channel, this place ceased to be important.

**No. 10—14 September 1767.**

1. **Commercolly**—Kumarkhali, a town in the Kushtia subdivision of Nadia District, Bengal, on the left bank of the Garai river. During the days of the E. I. Company a commercial resident was stationed here and a large business in silk was carried on at this place.

**No. 11—10 December 1767.**

1. **Covelon**—Covelong (Kovalum) village in the district and *taluka*, of Chingleput, Madras, on the east coast about 20 miles south of Madras city. This place depended greatly on the manufacture of salt.—*Imperial Gazetteer*, Vol. XI, p. 54.

2. **Jungepore**—Jangipur, headquarters of the subdivision of the same name in Murshidabad District, Bengal. During early years of the British rule it was an important centre of silk trade and the site of one of the Company's commercial residencies.

3. **Dussmassa rupees**—10/11 of a Current rupee; the exchange, however, fluctuated.

4. **Fulta**—Falta, village in the Diamond Harbour sub-division of 24-Parganas, Bengal, situated on the bank of the Hooghly nearly opposite to its junction with the Damodar. The British took refuge here after the capture of Calcutta by Siraj-ud-Daulah in 1756.

5. **Surman's garden**—It marked the southern part of the British settlement just as Perrin's garden marked the northern. The Kidderpore docks have been established in this place. Surman's garden was purchased from Mr. Edwards Handle in November 1767 for 10,000 Arcot rupees.

6. **Luckypore**—Lakhipur, a village in Noakhali District, East Bengal. A factory was established here by the East India Company in 1756.

7. **Bartholomew Plaisted**—See *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol. I. Plaisted, Engineer and Surveyor of Works, originally member of the Bombay establishment of the Company, accepted the post of Engineer at Fort William in 1752. Three

years later he was appointed as Master Attendant at Calcutta, but was shortly afterwards suspended from service for his objectionable behaviour towards the President and Council. In consideration of his sufferings during the calamity which befell the English in Calcutta in 1756, the Directors allowed him to be reinstated in 1758 as Surveyor of Works. In 1759 Plaisted was nominated as a Commissioner of Resitution.

8. Ely Rupees—Hali rupees i.e. current rupees or *sicca*.

**No. 14—22 February 1768.**

1. Monhur Muckerjee—A contractor under the Committee of Works, also responsible for works at Berhampore. There is a reference to one Monhur Mukherjee, the *Diwan* of a certain Mr. Bateman. His name is on the list of 95 principal native inhabitants of Calcutta who petitioned Governor Spencer against sentencing Radhacharan Roy to death for forgery.

2. Dhees—*Dih* (*deh*), a village comprehending not only the actual village, but also the lands belonging to it.—Wilson, *op. cit.*, p. 220.

3. Tushkees—*Tash-khis* meaning assessment.

**No. 15—14 March 1768.**

1. Bandemalancka—Bandarmurlanka village in the Amalapuram *taluka* of Godavari District, Madras, at the mouth of the Vainteyam, a branch of the Godavari. It was an important English factory.

2. Survels—Swivels.

3. Coureys—Kori, a small shell which passed as money.

**No. 17—28 March 1768.**

1. Zabita Khan—This estimate of Zabita Khan was entirely wrong. After Najib's death he failed to hold his own and his territory dwindled to the average size of a modern collectorate. He tried to make friends with the Sikhs and the Mughals alternately. There is a saying still current in Saharanpur district "Ek Guru Ka do Chele Adha Sikh Adha Rohile."

2. Serajhe Malye—Suraj Mal of Bharatpur.

**No. 18—13 September 1768.**

1. Narraindoo (Deo)—Article IV of the treaty concluded between the British and the Nizam on 23 February, 1768 concerns Narain Deo. "Naraindoo one of the Zemindars of the Circar of Chicacole having lately raised disturbances in the Elecheapour Country and refused . . . . . to pay his rents . . . . . the Nabob Ausuph Jau agrees . . . . . to write letters to pay his rents . . . . . the Nabob Ausuph Jau agrees . . . . . to write letters not only to Naraindoo but all the Zemindars in the Circars . . . . . acquainting them that they are in future to regard the English Company as their Sovereign".—*Select Committee Proceedings*, 27 April 1768, p. 212.

2. Kimedy—The Kimedy estate is now part of Ganjam District, Madras.

## No. 19—13 September 1768.

1. **Meyepore**—Mayapur situated midway between Budge Budge and Falta on the left bank of the Hughli.
2. **Burrabulla Sand**—See Barrabulla *ante* p. 629.

## No. 21—25 September 1768.

1. **Maundy**—Mandi Ghat in Fyzabad District, U.P. It was a very important calling station for boats on the Gogra.
2. **Shew—Rajepore**—Shivrajpur, headquarters of the *tehsil* and *pargana* of the same name in Cawnpore District, U.P., situated on the Grand Trunk Road about 21 miles, n. w. of Cawnpore.
3. **Jagemou**—Jajmau, the ancient town of this name formerly gave its name to the Cawnpore *pargana* and *tehsil*, but is now a decayed place standing on the bank of the Ganges about 4 miles from the city to the east of Cawnpore cantonment.

## No. 26—6 January 1768.

1. **Tarror**—Tarhar, a small sub-division of Allahabad province, lying south of the city of Allahabad on the opposite side of the river. It was formed during the reign of Aurangzeb of parts of land dismembered from the contiguous districts—Hamilton, Walter, *East India Gazetteer*, Vol. II, (London, 1829) p. 623. Barhar, a *sarkar* of Allahabad Province, mentioned in *Chahar Gulshan* is probably a wrong transcription of Tarhar in the text used by Sarkar—Sarkar J. N., *India of Aurangzib*, (Calcutta, 1901) p. 136.

## No. 28—2 February 1768.

1. **Chintz**—a printed or spotted cotton cloth. The word “is derived from *chint* or *chete*, Hindu words for variegated, spotted, whence *Chita*”—Birdwood, *op. cit.* p. 240.
2. **Bauleah pykars**—*dalals* dealt with pykars, who were the lowest set of brokers. Bauleah refers to Rajshahi or Rampur Boalia.
3. **Sootanooty**—Northern part of Calcutta extending from China Bazar to Bagbazar.
4. **Simlah**—Now a part of Ward VI of the Corporation of Calcutta on the northern side of the city. On 8 August 1754 the proprietors rented it to the East India Company.
5. **Narrain Sing and Ringheer**—Is it possible that these names refer to Narran Singh and his brother, Rogeram, mentioned in Hill,—*Bengal in 1756-57*, Volume I. p. 100? Narayan Singh had before the capture of Calcutta by Siraj-ud-Daulah tried to see the Governor with a letter but the latter had refused to see him.
6. **Rachbehary Seat instead of Banjabenaut Seat**—“Bungnaut and Rossbehari Seat” were two of the 95 prominent native inhabitants of Calcutta who petitioned the Governor against hanging an Indian for forgery.

## No. 35—5 April 1769.

1. **Kerim Cawn**—Karim Khan Zand, ruler of Persia, from A.D. 1750 to 1779—Sykes, P. M. *History of Persia*, Vol. II, (London, 1915) p. 375.

No. 37—30 September 1769.

1. Series Kotombo country—Siris and Kutumba *parganas* in Aurangabad sub-division of Gaya District—O'Malley, *L S S Bengal District Gazetteers, Gaya*, (Calcutta, 1906) pp. 174-75, 200. This part of Bihar to the west of Gaya is on the Son, we find this area included in the list of rebellious *parganas* in June 1768.

2. Lands taken from the Goorka Raja—The expedition which was undertaken by Captain Kinlock in 1767 for the relief of Raja of Nepal against the Gurkha Chief Prithi Narain failed because the necessary reinforcement could not be provided due to the heavy demands made by Madras Presidency in connection with the First Anglo-Mysore War. However, the Company annexed the *Tarai* lands bordering on Bettiah the income from which was sufficient to cover the expenses of the expedition—Long, *op. cit.*, pp. 537—42.

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# I N D E X

Ar.=Arabic; Beng.=Bengali; H.=Hindi; Or.=Oriya; P.=Persian;  
Skt.=Sanskrit; Tam.=Tamil.

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1	30	( . . . . )	the Calcutta
2	1	sentiment	Sentiments
2	9	( . . . . )	pay
2	25	Richard Crab	Richard Crabb
2	30	Account	Accounts
3	15	( . . . . ) St. George	Fort St. George
3	17	o( . . . . )	On
3	19	{ . . . . }	charge
4	11	W. Cruttenden	E. H. Cruttenden
5	15	W. Cruttenden	E. H. Cruttenden
11	23	remain	remains
11	25	within	without
13	30	( . . . . )	in
14	34	an(?)	any
17	11	( . . . . )	are
20	8	woollen	woollens
20	41	had	has
22	2	( . . . . )	live
22	6	were	will
22	23-24	Margin	8th April. April
25	16	Rs	8th April
26	2	supp( . . . . )	CRs.
26	28	according their	supplied
27	5	( . . . . )	according to their
31	13, 15	Van Kixtell (?)	do
31	30	W. Cruttenden	Vanrixtell
32	22	W. Cruttenden	E. H. Cruttenden
33	11	( which ? )	E. H. Cruttenden
33	18, 20, 22, 24,	(19th July ?)	which
	26, 28		19th June
33	30, 32	(15 July ?)	15th July
33	34, 36	( 2nd ? )	2nd Sept.
33	38, 39, 40	Murcury	Mercury
35	9	delete	
35	30	( Lord )	
35	36	( had ? )	has
35	43	carefull	carefully
35	45	Yorke	York
36	20	by 30	with 80
38	10	( . . . . )	part
38	15	176(6?)	1768
38	18	( . . . . )	home
39	7	( . . . . )	under
39	16	Teneriffe	Teneriffe
39	17	(cu . . . . )	Culjeed
40	3	(280?) Tons	260 Tons
40	4	Grapnals	Grapnels
41	6	( Tins? )	Flour
41	11	Teneriffe	Theneriffe
41	34	inconvenience's	inconveniencies
42	11	Advan ( ce ? )	Advance
42	37	( . . . . )	which
42	11	(arrive . . . )	arrives
43	18	as must (sic)	as much
44	21	to( . . . . )	together
45	15	( . . . . )	as
		parti( . . . . )	particulars

<i>Page</i>	<i>Line</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
45	27	(single Teas?)	Single Teas
50	6	your ( <i>sic</i> )	you
50	18	( . . . )	cash
51	9	wh( . . . )	who
52	7	1,091,9(3)-1-6	10,91,989-1-6
52	39	Subordinates	Subordinate
53	6	th( . . . )	this
53	22	( 176 . . . )	1766
55	15	as	at
55	18	blamable	blameable
56	2	29th February and 17th May 1767	19th February and 17th May 1766
56	7	( . . . )	and put
56	8	( . . . )	and
56	30	manner important	manner the important
56	32	( . . . )	of
57	13	m( . . . )	make
57	20	proceed	proceeded
57	24	many	any
57	24	( . . . )	by
57	31	( . . . )	through
57	33	(under ?)	under
58	8	(it ?)	it
58	12	(Men ?)	Ministers
58	32	(purchase ?)	pay
58	36	(ratified ?)	rather
58	38	(to ?)	to
59	1 delete	( . . . )	—
59	2	( . . . )	to
59	4	( . . . )	Free
59	8	(of the ?)	of the
59	9	( . . . )	the
59	16	Comission	Commission
60	16	watch( . . . ) deducting	watching and detecting
60	19	additi(onal ?)	additional
60	20	Year his	Year and his
60	35	etch	each
60	39	pr( . . . )	preventing
61	3	Progress	Progression
61	7	( . . . )	order
61	8	Complain a	Complaint of a
61	16	( . . . )	or
61	17	( . . . )	as
61	21	Directions	Direction
61	25	day September	day of September
61	26	Duan( . . . )	Duannee
61	30	to be	to the
61	33	pro rata	pro-rata
61	36	Comission	Commission
62	3	to ( on ?)	to omit
62	7	( . . . )	Conduct
62	10	well (timed ?)	well-timed
62	40	2 ( . . . )	21st
62	41	Rupce 30 days	Runce and 30 days
63	15	W. Cruttenden	E. H. Cruttenden
65	10	W. Cruttenden	E. H. Cruttenden
66	12	both both Ships	both Ships
67	29	and	are
69	37	W. Cruttenden	E. H. Cruttenden
71	17	Alderrey Kelsall	Aldersev Kelsall
73	13	Carry	Cargo

Page	Line	For	Read
74	16	on	an
76	32	Theneriffe	Theneriffe
78	30	3rd March 1768	3rd March 1758
78	34	Coast	Cost
78	35	delete whole line	
84	38	Sentiments People	Sentiments among People
86	19	Benefit	Benefit
97	27	following is a Copy vizt	to your care and attention
98	10	Commission	Commission
102	41	1702	1762
107	5	P Rupees	P Rupee
124	8	No 26	No 21
125	8	Postscript	Postscript
126	3	Infantry	Rank
126	7	Morrison gone away	Morrison gone a new way
126	30	Walter	Walter
127	1	Infantry	Rank
127	12	James Mayaffie	James Mayaffre
128	9	Funner Camac	Furner Camac
128	13	John Cartyle	John Carlyle
161	1	13	13A
168	24	W Cruttenden	E H Cruttenden
169	8	W Cruttenden	E H Cruttenden
169	18	silk works	silk worms
185	13	country	contrary
186	40	taking	taken
196	23	Edwards	Edward
197	13	W Cruttenden	E H Cruttenden
197	15	P Pardoe	J Pardoe
197	24	C Michell	P Michell
200	22	Robert James	John Murray
200	23	(23 September 1678)	(23 September 1768)
211	44	Security	Security
222	26	perferment	preferment
228	Bet 28 & 29 insert	(26 May 1769)	
244	31	Influence	Influence
273	3	344521 12 3	344521 13 3
273	3	rd	rd
273	4	C Rs 25654 14 0	C Rs 24654 14 0
273	15	Shunder	Spinner
273	17	John (Burgrass)	John Burgraff
285	18 & 27	Chas Sykes	Francis Sykes
296	4	consequences	consequences
300	11	Claud Russel	Claude Russell
300	12	Chas Rogers	Charles Floyer
300	29	Charles Rogers	Chas Floyer
313	3	Charles William	Charles William
		Broughton	Boughton
315	18	Claude Russel	Claude Russell
321	43	Claude Russel	Claude Russell
331	14	Board Cloth	Broad Cloth
332	38	Commercolly <sup>2</sup>	Commercolly <sup>1</sup>
347	24	Conclon (Concon ?)	Covelon
347	26	Circumstnaces	Circumstances
347	38	Consn ( ) Octr	Consn 19 Octr
350	26	( 3 ?) Do	3 Octr
366	7	(550 ?) 15 0	558 15 9
387	11	Hannaniel	Hannaniel
396	33	Charles Sykes	Francis Sykes
407	28	Aurangs	Aurungs
411	18	Numer	Number



<i>Page</i>	<i>Line</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
412	38	Dingagepore	Dinagepore
426	4	desired ( <i>sic</i> )	denied
432	36	Margin Consn. 23 Augst.	Consn. 22 August.
442	7	58,8324-17	58,832-4-17
446	19	annual	annul
457	29	the measure	this measure
459	8	certainly	certainty
459	14	filter	fetter
460	2	tender	render
461	37	1764	1767
462	14	of the Nabobs is plotting any	of the Nabobs fidelity gives as his opinion that if the nabob is plotting any
462	15	omit the whole line	
462	20	considerate	confederate
462	23-24	of Minute	of my Minute
463	8	Jagemon	Jagemou
464	14	Hindaput	Hindraput
464	22	Hindaputs	Hindraputs
465	38	Smith	Smiths
468	41	sort	short
469	17	much ( <i>sic</i> )	must
475	10	Officers	Offices
478	7	15 Sept.	13 Sept.
484	32	as is	as it
494	21	decision ( <i>sic</i> )	division
494	42	or	for
496	20	Chas. Sykes	Francis Sykes
499	23	Commander's	Commanders
500	1	Pegue	Pegu
502	22	Covi Cordage	Coir Cordage
504	3-4	which is requisite to give the impression of the executed in this Country with that exactness	executed in this Country with that exactness which is requisite to give the impression of the
504	17	Pauttuck	Pautuck
504	18	Bannias	Bannian
506	28	thoroughly	thoroughly
508	6	or	on
508	16	Trade the	Trade to the
509	9	acquainted	acquainted
509	10	Birck	Brick
513	22	Consultation 28th	Consultation the 28th
514	38	Knowledge of Mr.	Knowledge Mr.
516	41	be imagine	we imagine
517	39	it if in	it is in
522	24	(Naryin ?) Diu	Narrian Diu
529	17	Examp(les?)	Example
530	9	needles	needless
530	38	Colonel A. Morgan	Colonal Morgan
532	18	in	is
533	19, 34-35	(Modigliani ?)	Modighani
533	20	2944-7-8	2944-7-3
533	21	Maseh	Mosch
533	26	1781-1-(1?)	1781-1-6
533	30	Chest Coral	Chest of Coral
534	6-7	Jas. Alexander/Thos.	Jas. Alexander/Claude
537	5	Rumbold	Russell/Thos. Rumbold
539	12	inform if	inform us if
539	19	( in ?)	in
		( her ?)	her

Page	Line	For	Read
510	6	( of ?)	on
514	24	contribution	contrition
514	6	9921 2 2	9921 3 3
517	36	their (sic)	then
549 from	33 omit	Do Do by the French	
519 Bet	31 & 35	Do Do by the French	oo oo,ooo
551	14	Ialbot	Ialbots
555	5 6	Bundelcund	Bundelcund
559	28	Dewannee	duanne
562	8	Royal Charlotte	Royal Charlotte
579	10	Royal Charlotte	Royal Charlotte
580	5	that	than
583	17	Cast	Cost
587	24	to agreeable	to ( ) agreeable
590	12	Numbers	Members
591	26	Thus Majesty	His Majesty
598	10	survey	surveying
601	25	Mal Practices	Malpractices
602	23	Serres Kotombo	Serres-Kotombo
603	9	in it, for	in it for
603	20	advice	advices
603	20	inform	informed
604	35	in	on
608	7	Information of	Information
611	36	in	on
612 Bet	13 14 insert	Hon ble Sirs	
612	16 delete	Hon'ble Sirs	
615	36	Charles Floyer	Charles Floyer
617	8	( on ?)	on



Page	Line	For	Read
510	6	( of ?)	on
514	24	contribution	contrition
511	6	992½ 2 2	992½ 3 3
517	36	their (sic)	then
519	from 33	omit	
519	Bet 31 & 35	Do Do by the French	
551	14	Do Do by the French	00,00,000
555	3 6	Talbot	Talbots
559	28	Bundelcund	Bundlecund
562	8	Dewannee	duanne
579	10	Royal Charlotte	Royal Charlotte
580	5	Royal Charlotte	Royal Charlotte
583	17	that	than
587	21	Cast	Cost
590	12	to agreeable	to ( . ) agreeable
591	26	Numbers	Members
598	10	Thus Majesty	His Majesty
601	25	survey	surveying
602	23	Mal Practices	Malpractices
603	9	Series Kotombo	Serres kotombo
603	20	in it, for	in it for
603	20	advice	advices
603	20	inform	informed
604	35	in	on
608	7	Information of	Information
611	36	in	on
612	Bet 13 14	Hon ble Sirs	
612	16	delete	
615	36	Hon'ble Sirs	
617	8	Charles Floyer	Charles Floyer
		( on ?)	on